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CBI RAIDS MULTIPLE PREMISES OF MOITRA IN CASH-FOR-QUERY SCAM

The CBI conducted searches at various premises linked to Mahua Moitra, including her parents' home in Kolkata, in the cash-for-query case

TRINAMOOL CALLS THE RAID VENDETTA POLITICS

The CBI sleuths reached the Trinamool Congress leader's home in Kolkata and other cities early in the morning and went to her party office in Krishnanagar in the evening. The TMC repeated her for the Lok Sabha poll from Krishnanagar. The party dubbed the raids as vendetta politics and a desperate attempt by the BJP to misuse central agencies ahead of the polls

CBI TO FILE REPORT WITHIN SIX MONTHS

- An FIR was filed this week against Moitra on the directions of Lokpal, which has asked the CBI to file its report within six months
- Moitra has challenged her expulsion from Lok Sabha in the SC. She was expelled in December 2023 following the recommendation of Ethics Committee for sharing her login, password of NIC portal

1st TIME

MAHUA MOITRA BECAME A LOK SABHA MP IN 2019

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann at an AAP protest condemning the arrest of his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal, in New Delhi on Saturday | PTI

HC rejects urgent hearing. Holi-day for Kejri with ED

Comment by German foreign office on full legal access to the Delhi CM angers MEA

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY AND YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday suffered a fresh setback after the Delhi High Court rejected his appeal for urgent listing and hearing against his remand in the liquor scam case. He was remanded in the Enforcement Directorate's custody till Thursday by a local court on Friday.

The legal team of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Kejriwal mentioned the matter before Justice Manmohan, Acting Chief Justice. The judge heard it though it was the court's off day, but refused to list it for urgent hearing.

Since the Delhi High Court will be closed for two days on Monday and Tuesday due to the Holi festival, the earliest Kejriwal's plea can be listed for hearing is Wednesday.

The ED had alleged on Friday that Kejriwal generated over ₹100 crore in kickbacks in the liquor policy scam. Of the proceed of the crimes, ₹45 crore was used in the Goa polls.

In a related development, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) bristled at a comment on Kejriwal by a spokesperson of Germany's foreign office.

"Kejriwal is entitled to fair and impartial trial. This includes that he makes use of all available legal avenues without restriction. The presumption of innocence is a central element of the rule of law and must apply to him," the spokesperson said.

The MEA reacted rather sharply by summoning German envoy Georg Enzweiler and voicing its disapproval. "The German Deputy Chief of Mission in New Delhi was summoned and we conveyed India's strong protest on their foreign office spokesperson's comments on our internal affairs. We see it as undermining the independence of our judiciary," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

'WILL COME OUT SOON'

"I will soon come out... Whether inside or outside, every moment of my life is dedicated to serving the country," Kejriwal was quoted as saying by his wife Sunita in a video

EXPRESS READ

Was trolled over seating position: CJI

BENGALURU: CJI DY Chandrachud on Saturday recalled a recent incident of him facing 'trolling' for adjusting his seating position, during a hearing due to a discomfort and highlighted the need for judicial officers to manage stress. P3

CBSE: New books for Classes 3 and 6

NEW DELHI: The NCERT will release a new syllabus and textbooks for Classes 3 and 6, while there will be no change in the curriculum and textbooks for other grades for the academic year 2024-25 commencing from April 1, according to CBSE officials.

143 killed and counting in Moscow terror attack by IS group's Afghanistan branch

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

AT least 143 people were killed in a terrorist attack on a packed concert hall in western Moscow, Russian authorities said on Saturday. The Islamic State's Afghanistan branch later claimed responsibility for the attack.

Gunmen burst into Crocus City Hall in Moscow's suburb of Krasnogorsk on Friday and randomly opened fire on people who had arrived to watch a concert by Russian band Picnic that was about to start.

The attackers also set off a blaze that took firefighters hours to bring under control.

Authorities said the toll could rise as investigators were combing through the charred wreckage of the hall for more victims. Over 100 people have been injured and the condition of 44 of them is said to be serious.

The Russian interior ministry said all four suspected gunmen were foreign nationals. Sources with links to the security services said they were from Tajikistan.

One of the detained suspects reportedly told Russian investigators he was recruited through Telegram and offered 5,00,000 rubles (₹4.5 lakh) for his role.

In his statement on Saturday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said 11 people have been detained. He also sought to link the attack to Ukraine, saying they were trying to escape to Ukraine through a 'window' prepared for them on the Ukrainian side of the border. But Ukraine denied any role in the carnage.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined others in condemning the attack. "We strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack.... India stands in solidarity with the government and the people of the Russian Federation in this hour of grief," he posted on X. P9

Rescuers clear charred wreckage inside Moscow's Crocus City Hall on Saturday | AP

Putin rejected warnings about attack, says US

The US Embassy in Moscow said it had warned Russia on March 7 that extremists were planning to target large gatherings in the city. But Russian President Vladimir Putin had called it a "provocative" statement and "outright blackmail... to intimidate and destabilise our society by scaring Russian citizens"

Karnataka moves SC for ₹18,171 cr drought grant from Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government on Saturday approached the Supreme Court, seeking its direction to the Centre to release Rs 18,171 crore due to the state to tackle drought.

"After exhausting all our options, we exercised our statutory right under Article 32 with a writ petition. The Centre even violated the Disaster Management Act 2005. The petition is likely to be listed for hearing after a week as the court is on vacation," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

Siddaramaiah said that his government approached the SC with a 'prayer' to direct the Centre to immediately release funds to tackle drought. On moving the top court after the announcement of elections to the Lok Sabha, he said, "Seeking justice cannot be an election issue."

He claimed that the state government had initiated steps to tackle drought by distributing Rs 2,000 each to 33,44,000 farmers by releasing Rs 650 crore from its treasury.

"We have declared 223 taluks drought-hit. Crops grown on 48 lakh hectares of land have been damaged. We submitted three memorandums to the Centre. But the state has not received a single paisa from the Centre," he said.

In October last, a central team visited the state and according to the rule, a decision should be taken to provide funds to tackle drought within a month of the team submitting its report, he said. P5

North-South divide in cybercrime: Fraudsters target each other's zones

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

CYBERCRIME investigators, who have cracked multiple mule accounts, have observed a clear pattern of north-south divide in India: cyber fraudsters in the north target victims in the south, while those in the south target victims in the north.

A police officer who is part of investigations into mule accounts (accounts used to receive and transfer funds acquired illegally on behalf of others) in Karnataka said all those accounts that were cracked were linked to villages in the north. The officer explained that this calculated move allowed fraudsters to act swiftly so that by the time a complaint was filed and police initiated action, the accused could transfer money and escape. This allowed adequate time to escape even if the police in the north alerted their southern counterparts to act.

Mule accounts make things complicated as these have to be addressed through collaborative efforts involving the police in the north and the south and the banks whose accounts are being used, which takes time, allowing the accused to escape or take evasive action. P5

WITH THIS ISSUE
PACKING A PUNCH
PLUS 12 PAGES
MAGAZINE

KISS
KALINGA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS)
KISS is a School, a College, and a Deemed to be University
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Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) is the world's first tribal institution, fully residential and fully free. KISS was granted Deemed to be University status by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India in 2017, making it the first University exclusively for tribal students in the world. The University focuses on teaching and research in unique and emerging areas of knowledge related to tribal studies.

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NUMBER CRUNCHING

Chennai link to data analysis in IPL

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

WHEN Gujarat Titans won the Indian Premier League (IPL) at the first time of asking in 2022, one person came in for special praise. Sandeep Raju, somebody who had played zero games for the franchise. But the role he played helped Hardik Pandya & Co. win the league. "I basically help the team with performance analytics," he had said in an in-house video the franchise uploaded. "I help them look at data and come up with performance and strategies and I also help with recruiting talent."

Of course, none of this is new. All sports teams — franchise, clubs, countries across a wide variety of sport — employ data analysts to give them that extra one per cent. What, though, links Raju with most of the other analysts currently employed by various IPL teams is the city they call home? Chennai (or a place in Tamil Nadu). Mumbai Indians have in their ranks Varun Narasimhan. Rajasthan Royals have Krishnan Seshadrinathan. Sunrisers Hyderabad have Gaurav Sundararaman. Lakshmi Narayanan has been associated with Chennai Super Kings. Shrinivas Chandrasekaran (Lucknow Super Giants) and Sankar Rajagopal (former Punjab Kings, now with Jio) are other names.

Why is this the case? There are multiple reasons but the most common answer is that the two 'companies that provide data analysts are headquartered in Chennai', both within a 10km radius (SportsMechanics and Kadamba). In a way, this is what's happening to the IPL teams. Because some teams still do not have separate data wings, what they essentially do is hire employees of these two companies for a fixed period every season. This year alone, there are at least seven Tamil-speaking analysts in IPL.

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Sunday Special

BIG TEAM PLAYERS

Even the Indian men's cricket team have on their roster somebody who is associated with Chennai-based company Sports Mechanics (Hari Mohan, who hails from Coimbatore). Seshadrinathan was at StatDNA, Arsenal's analytics company when Arsene Wenger was the manager.

ALMANAC TODAY

• **Sunday:** 24/03/2024 • **Year:** Shobhakruta • **Ayana:** Uttharayana
• **Ritu:** Sishira • **Masa:** Phalguna • **Paksha:** Sukla • **Tithi:** Chaturdasi 9.12 am
• **Nakshatra:** Purva Phalguni 7.05 am • Moon in Kanya Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00pm
• **Gulikakala:** 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER MIN 20°C | MAX 35°C
FORECAST Sunny

Sunrise 06.21 am
Sunset 06.30 pm
Moonrise 05.55 pm
Moonset 05.43 am

RAMZAN
THAT TIME OF THE YEAR

From kebabs and savouries to sweetmeats and hot chai, Koramangala comes alive each evening this month, with the aroma of a million flavours wafting through the air

People of all ages just can't have enough of the delectable offerings served at the Iftar Food Festival in Koramangala, Bengaluru | ALLEN EGENUSE J

ARTY-CRAFTY

Celebration of art & poetry at BIC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Bangalore International Centre (BIC) is celebrating the art of poetry in an extraordinary way through a fusion of art, culture, and a sustainable lifestyle exhibition. The two-day Glass House Festival of Poetry 2024 kicked off on Saturday with artists, poetry enthusiasts, and writers coming together under one roof. The exhibition was inaugurated by Veena Jain, national director, International Beauty Pageants and Mrs India Globe. It was curated by Minnku Buttar, wellness coach and her team Jasbir Narula.

This year the Glass House Festival is celebrated with the theme of 'Planet, Prosperity, People and Peace'. A total of 68 poets and speakers will be sharing their ideas in person, while 25 poets will be joining online from around the globe to celebrate the different artistic expressions.

The different panels of poets will be responding to current issues through their powerful words and reading sessions. There will also be art and poetry on films, workshops, panel discussions, lectures, performances, awards, book signings, and pop-up stalls.

Apart from creativity taking centre stage, the exhibition of lifestyle treasures is a treat for the visitors organised in collaboration with 'Artmantram.' Based on the ideas of sustainability and eco-friendly, the 25 stalls are spread across two floors. From hand-painted cloth pieces and sarees, home decor, unique jewellery pieces, and self-care products to delicious gourmet food, one can relish all of it while listening to some poetry.

Keen on spreading a sustainable lifestyle message, Veena spoke to the entrepreneurs and their special skills in creating mesmerising art pieces with organic materials on day one. The director also made sure to support small businesses by buying some of the products at the stalls and encouraging others to do so.

Speaking to *The New Sunday Express*, Minnku said that it is crucial to understand the responsibility humans have towards nature. "The Earth in its artsy nature and amplitude treasures is always readjusting to human existence and needs. It is our responsibility to protect, sustain and nourish it. We should not leave any toxicity behind. That is why we consciously choose organic and sustainable products for our exhibition."

Veena Jain, Mrs India Globe and National Director for International Beauty Pageants, inaugurates the sustainable exhibition of lifestyle treasures at Bengaluru International Centre on Saturday | ALLEN EGENUSE J

Instead of travelling, people must vote: Tushar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WITH the first phase of polling for the Lok Sabha segments of Bangalore South, Central and North falling on April 26 (Friday), the election authorities anticipate that voters would draw out travel plans, instead of casting their votes. Hence, District Election Officer and BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath has instructed officials to encourage citizens to vote without fail.

Addressing a training programme for booth-level officials and supervisors in connection with the General Election-2024 in the Bangalore North Lok Sabha constituency on Saturday, he noted that in 353 polling centres, the voting percentage was less than 5%, and hence, he asked the officials to visit all the houses within the respective polling booth jurisdictions, and work to create awareness among the voters to vote without fail.

"Booth-level officers, during door-to-door visits, should inform first-time voters to cast their ballots and encourage others to vote without fail as well. There is a system of postal ballot for differently-abled voters, and those aged over 85 years, which should be filled through Form 12D," he said.

The DEO also stated that the voter card should be delivered to every house 10 days before the polling date, without fail. This time, the voter card will have a bar code, indicating the location of the polling station, and the voters should be informed about this. In addition, he said that tickets with the election date printed on them should be delivered to every house, whose people must be encouraged to vote.

A STEEP INCREASE

PARENTS SAY PVT SCHOOL FEES UP BY 30%, STRUGGLE TO COPE

PURAN CHOUDHARY @Bengaluru

WITH the new academic year just around the corner, parents are facing the brunt of increased fees which has seen a hike in double digits since the Covid-19 pandemic.

It's not just the school costs but also other annual educational expenses that have seen a steep increase. A survey conducted by Local Circles revealed that in Tier-1 and 2 cities, the annual all-inclusive fees of premier private schools range between Rs one lakh and Rs 4 lakh and fees in good private schools in Tier-3 and 4 cities range between Rs 50,000 and Rs 2 lakh.

The study noted that 50% of parents complained of a 30% or more fee hike in the last two years. The survey received over 27,000 responses from parents from 312 districts across the country, including Karnataka. In all, 66% of respondents were men while 34% were women. While 45% of respondents were from Tier-1 cities and 24% from Tier-2 cities, 31% were from Tier-3, 4 and rural districts.

Meanwhile, private school associations in the state have defended the fee hike and also proposed to regulate the increase at 10-15% year-on-year given the expenses. The Karnataka High Court in 2023 had quashed the government's plea on regulating school fees for private schools that had left parents in the state helpless.

Shashi Kumar D, convener, Karnataka Private School Managements' Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff Co-ordination Committee (KPMTCC), said though the survey says that there has been a fee increase of 30%, it might not be true for all private schools. "Most schools have only hiked the fees by a nominal rate of 10-15%. During 2020-2022, schools did not hike the fees and hence now it might have been 15-20% in some schools," he explained.

Kumar added that any private aided schools have the liberty to fix a reasonable fee and the government can keep an eye on it or regulate it, but "the government has no authority to fix the fees". The survey's question on whether state governments have been effective in capping or limiting excessive fee increases by schools revealed that only 23% of parents felt happy with the action taken. "If household earnings are growing under 10% a year, school fees just simply cannot continue to grow at 15-25% a year," concluded the survey report.

'Adopt five formulas, reduce water usage'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BY ACCEPTING the Green Star rating challenge launched by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), the Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF) is ready to adopt "Panchasutras" (five formulas) to save water, said BWSSB chairman Ram Prasat Manohar.

Participating in a programme to promote water conservation organised here on Saturday in collaboration with BAF, he said the federation has 30 clusters with more than 15 lakh members. For drinking water, they depend on borewells, tankers and the Cauvery. To promote adequate water management and moderate consumption in these apartments, the BWSSB has launched the rating challenge.

Water consumption can be reduced by 30% by adopting the five formulas – saving water, use of treated water, adopting technology while using borewell water, setting up rainwater harvesting units and sharing information on these measures, he said.

An individual needs around 50 litres of water daily. By using 20% of treated water, 30% of Cauvery water can be saved. The water saved can be diverted to the affected areas, he said.

Manohar said BWSSB is collecting data on water sources for apartments such as Cauvery, borewells, treated water and tankers. Based on the data, BWSSB can supply water required by apartments.

On federation's request to install water meters in individual apartments, Manohar said it can be done by amending the relevant laws. He asked the federation to submit a request to the BWSSB to be taken up with the government.

BEATING THE HEAT

Owing to the scorching heat, a visitor sits under an umbrella, reading a book at Cubbon Park in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

Great Tourism Roadshows expands reach to B'luru

ENS @Bengaluru

THE Great Tourism Roadshows which commenced in Pune on January 16, reached Bengaluru on Friday for an engaging itinerary-building workshop. The event targeted a large number of travel trade industry agents and tour operators. The roadshow held interactive trade workshops aimed at acquainting the trade with VisitBritain's latest product tools and resources. Led by the British Deputy High Commissioner to Karnataka and Kerala, Chandru Iyer, the events highlighted the economic significance of tourism, a key component of British trade. Chandru Iyer said, "India and the UK are magnets for investors, students, and tourists which benefits both nations. Our collaboration with the travel trade in India holds particular significance in south India, and the flagship event, the Great Tourism Roadshow, serves as a vital tool in enhancing visits throughout the year and across various destinations in Britain."

British Deputy High Commissioner to Karnataka and Kerala Chandru Iyer

Fake detergent powders, toilet cleaners and mosquito coils, totally valued at over Rs 8 lakh, were seized from a manufacturing unit in Avalahalli on Wednesday. Police officials recovered boxes of home cleanliness products, empty bottles, fake labels, mosquito coils, and a mixing machine, used in making the fake detergents, and also recovered a godown

MANAGING WORK-LIFE BALANCE IMPORTANT FOR JUDGES: CJI

Says these are difficult times of social media where work that is done is constantly monitored

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Saturday said managing stress and achieving work-life balance, among judges, especially district judges is important.

At the 21st Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial Officers on the theme of 'Equity and Excellence for Futuristic Judiciary', speaking on 'work and life balance', he told district judges, "Sometimes, litigants and lawyers cross the line, but we are not to use the power of contempt but to understand why they have crossed the line. There must be deep-rooted injustice. In such situations, the judicial officers must remain calm, and their approach should be compassionate. Before you heal others, you must learn to heal yourself."

Narrating a recent incident, he said, "We live in difficult times of social media where the work we do is constantly being assessed. The Supreme Court has put all its important hearings on a live streaming platform and is watched all over the country. But we can also be trolled... I will just give an example. Just 4-5 days back when I was hearing a case, I had a little pain in the back. All that I did was placed my elbows in my arm-chair and just shifted my position. That video was doctored so as to delete that part of what followed thereafter. A large amount of social media comments was that the CJI is so arrogant, that he got up in the midst of an important argument in the court. This is the position of CJI. The judges in taluk courts don't have protection," he observed.

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the 21st Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial Officers on the theme of 'Equity and Excellence for Futuristic Judiciary', in Bengaluru on Saturday

He said the performance of district judiciary in Karnataka in disposal of cases should be replicated all over the country.

He said that 20.62 lakh cases have been disposed of by the district judiciary in Karnataka of the total 21.25 lakh cases between January 1, 2023, and March 23, 2024. On the sub-theme of the conference 'Women and the Judiciary', he said the representation of women in district judiciary is heartening, and signifies tremendous progress. Across India, women constitute 37 per cent of the working strength in district judiciary. In Karnataka, of the total working strength of 447 civil judges, 200 are women, or 44%, leading the social transformation across India, he said.

He said that a mere increase in the number of women is not sufficient. The next step is to create an atmosphere conducive for women judicial officers to carry out their functions effectively, without hindrances and as equal participants in the justice delivery mechanism.

Four years ago, the Karnataka HC provided sanitary napkin vending machines. Such initiatives have to be spread to district courts across the nation, especially at the district level, he added. Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court NV Anjaria said judges in the district judiciary are the backbone of the institution and district judiciary is the foundation of the common man's faith.

WILDLIFE ABUSE

Monitor lizard with cut fingers rescued, blackmagic suspected

MOHAMMED YACOOB
@ Bengaluru

ANIMAL rights group People for Animals (PFA) received a call for rescue from Vijayanagar, and volunteers came across a monitor lizard with four fingers missing from its limbs. The volunteers suspect that it could be part of an elaborate blackmagic ritual.

According to PFA General Manager Colonel Nawaz Shariff, the team received a call from a person who stated that a monitor lizard was found in the compound of a house in Vijayanagar. The volunteers rushed to the spot and picked up the reptile, which was examined at a rehabilitation centre.

"The injuries seem too uniform across all the limbs of the lizard, and it is suspected the fingers were cut off to be used in some sort of blackmagic," said Shariff. He noted that such injuries on animals like slender loris and barn owls are reported before major elections, raising suspicion of animal parts being used for perceived political gain. "More than 75 slender lorises were rescued, of which, around eight had suffered serious injuries. Just before Assembly elections last year, cases of barn owls whose eyes were gouged out, or had broken legs, were also reported. It appears that people capture and torture animals, birds and reptiles to indulge in superstitious practices, to defeat opponents," he Shariff.

The monitor lizard with missing fingers from its limbs | EXPRESS

'Volunteer Beat' to be launched to curb thefts

Bengaluru: In a bid to prevent thefts and house-breakings, the Bengaluru City Police are all set to launch a 'Volunteer Beat', with public support. Speaking at the 'Jana Samparka Sabhe' at Dr Rajkumar Auditorium in Mahalakshmi Layout on Saturday, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda said the police are contemplating starting the new beat in Vijayanagar and Chandra Layout police limits. Recalling that the city police have had initiatives like 'Neighbourhood Police' and 'Police Volunteers' earlier, Dayananda said , "The implementation of a volunteer beat requires public cooperation, so as to solve cases of robbery and burglary at night." Meanwhile, to a question, Dayananda called upon jewellers to immediately dial '112' if they notice anyone suspicious, either visiting their shops, or lurking around in the vicinity. He assured that action would be initiated against potential suspects.

Besides, the public also complained to the commissioner about traffic congestion in localities like the Peenya Industrial Area and Goraguntepalya. Deputy Commissioner of Police - North Division Saidulu Adavath, and others took part in the meet.

SIX HELD FOR CHARRING 3 TO DEATH

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Tumakuru

WITH the police arresting six accused in the sensational case of three people from Belthangady found charred to death in a car on the Kuchangi tank bed, the case is evolving into a fake gold transaction racket. Auto driver Sahul (45), resident of TB Cross, Nada village, Issac (56), a resident of Kuvettu village, Madadka, and Imtiaz (34), a resident of Shirlala village, in Belthangady taluk of Dakshina Kannada district were found in the gutted car on Friday. One of the bodies was found in the rear seat and two others in the boot of the car.

The key accused Swami from Tumakuru had allegedly lured the victims with a huge offer of gold at throw-away prices, claiming that he unearthed the gold in a field. Police who have been interrogating the accused have not revealed the details.

Sources revealed that there was a transaction of Rs 1 crore and the victims were suspected to have paid the amount to the accused to obtain the gold. When they arrived to strike a deal on Thursday night, the accused attacked and tied them before setting the car on fire and fleeing the scene.

Stay in check during polls, cops warn rowdies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

The West Division police raided homes of as many as 326 rowdy sheeters on Saturday morning and warned them against working for any political party in the coming Lok Sabha elections. The early morning raids were conducted in Cottonpet, Kalasipalya, JJ Nagar and other jurisdictions. The rowdies were also warned not to indulge in any criminal activities during the polls.

The raids were conducted between 6 am and 9 am, however, no weapons were seized from the houses that were raided. The drive was conducted as a precautionary measure in view of the coming Parliamentary elections, and covered the jurisdiction of 19 police stations. As many as 231 rowdies were at home at the time. The police have obtained fingerprints. Around 95 rowdies were not present during the raids, and no cases were registered against any of them. Efforts are on to track them.

With the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in place, the raids were conducted on the directions from the DCP (West).

It may be recalled that the South Division police conducted simultaneous raids at the residences of over 234 history-sheeters on Thursday. The raids were conducted in the jurisdiction of 16 police stations, including Jayanagar, JP Nagar, Siddapura, Banashankari, Puttenahalli, Subramanyapura, Konanakunte, Talaghattapura, and Girinagar.

Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Kancheepuram
Chennai-600127, Tamil Nadu, India
(An Institute of National Importance under MoE, Govt. of India)

ADMISSION TO Ph.D & M.Des PROGRAMME – JULY 2024

Advt.No.: IIITDM/PhD/Admission/03/01/July-2024 dated 15/03/2024

IIITDM Kancheepuram located at outskirts of Chennai is an Institute of National Importance setup by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. IIITDM Kancheepuram invites online applications for admission to Ph.D & M.Des programme for July 2024 session.

1. **Ph.D - CSE, ECE, ME, Science & Humanities, Integrated Product Design**
2. **M.Des - Integrated Product Design (CEED qualified candidates)**

Online application form and information regarding academic qualifications, eligibility and financial assistance are available in the Institute website (http://www.iiitdm.ac.in).

Last date for submission of online application:
Ph.D : 15.04.2024 & M.Des : 30.04.2024

Registrar

Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History
(Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
Anaikatty, Coimbatore- 641 108

Advt. No.SACON/RES/ RCTMT-ADVT-02/2024

The Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), wishes to engage **Research Associate (01)** and **Junior Research Biologist (06)** (Indian National only) on temporary basis. For further information, please refer www.sacon.in/careers.

Research Coordinator

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Eligibility: B.Tech/BE in Civil Engineering
Open also for other M.Tech, M.S and Ph.D programmes. For more details, visit:
https://pgadmissions.iiit.ac.in/pgee/
Application Deadline: 1st April, 2024

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RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. and Due Date	Description	Quantity (Nos./Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1.	14241002 12.04.2024	Thermal Insulation for Underframe of Railway Coaches 25x935x1000 MM	37303 SQM.	7,46,540/-
		Thermal Insulation for Sidewall of Railway Coaches Size 50x935x1000 MM	15181 SQM.	
2.	13225477 18.04.2024	Heavy Duty Network Printer, As per attached Specification Document	10 Nos.	Nil
3.	13235423A 15.04.2024	Design, Manufacture, Erection, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of EOT Crane Cap-20 Ton	07 Nos.	9,80,000/-
4.	02241065 23.04.2024	D.D.M.S.I.T. and Comm. of Three Phase Propulsion Equipments and Control System for BG High Speed Hybrid (Electric+Diesel) Self Propelled Accident Relief Train (SPART)	Item Wise as per Tender	50,00,000/-

1. For details and making on-line bids, visit website http://ireps.gov.in. Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF website http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in. Class III-b digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at http://www.cce.gov.in. 2. Tenders will close at 14.25 Hrs. on due date and tenders will be opened at 14.30 hrs. Tender at Sl. No. 1 to 3 will be opened at RCF Kapurthala and Sl. No. 4 will be opened at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi. 3. For queries, contact IREPS Helpdesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658.

Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them.

PCMM

CORRIGENDUM

Tenderers may please note the following changes in 1. e-Adev Tender No. 07241034, Due Date to be read as 10.04.2024 instead of 27.03.2024. **2.** Tender No. 05241028 for Body Side Sliding Door, **(i)** Due Date to be read as 10.04.2024 instead of 03.04.2024. **(ii)** Drawing to be read as ICF/MRVC/C/BT-5-8-006 Alt. E instead of DMU/TC/V/SS-5-8-001 Alt. 'a' Col-1. **3.** Tender No. 16231212 for Set of Protective Clothing Pant & Shirt, Due Date to be read as 04.04.2024 instead of 22.03.2024. **4.** Tender No. 14231255, **(i)** Due Date to be read as 27.03.2024 instead of 22.03.2024. **(ii) Reply against representations by various vendors is published. All other terms & conditions will remain the same.**

PCMM

R.O. No. 173-S/2023-24 **Dated 23.03.2024**

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IDBI BANK
CIN:L65190MH2004GOI148838
Retail Recovery, Bengaluru Zonal Office, # 3rd Floor, IDBI House, 58 Mission Road, Bengaluru – 560027. Ph 080-61451322 Email:- recovery.bengaluru@idbi.co.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
Under Rule 8 (1)

Loan A/c no. 0008651100002073, 0008673100000064, 0008671100007368, 0008673200000930 & 0008673100000055

Whereas, The Undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the IDBI Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 27.11.2023 calling upon the borrowers **Smt. J.Guhapriya,** the Proprietrix of **M/s. Kavi Poultrie,** to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand notice being **Rs.11,58,68,781.03 (Rupees Eleven Crores Fifty Eight Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty One and paisa Three Only)** as on **01/11/2023** plus further interest and charges thereon and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned have taken Physical Possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **20th day of March 2024.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the Property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the IDBI Bank Limited, for an amount of **Rs.11,58,68,781.03 (Rupees Eleven Crores Fifty Eight Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty One and paisa Three Only)** as on **01/11/2023** plus further interest and charges thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

Property No.1 : S.F.No:165/2 to the extent of 1.00 acre and Item Number 2 – S.F.No:165/2 to the extent of 1.00 acre totaling of 2.00 acres (as per the sub division, Patta No: 818, S.F.No: 165/2A - 2.00 acre), Kanjampatty Village, Gomangalam SRO, Pollachi Taluk, Coimbatore District, Tirupur Registration District in the state of Tamil Nadu admeasuring and is bounded as follows: Boundaries for Item No.1 S.F.No:165/2 measuring an extent of 1.00 acre, East of the S. F. No. 164, West of the south – north road in S. F. No: 160, North of the Property of Balakrishnan, South of the below mentioned 2nd item of property, Boundaries for Item No.2 S.F.No:165/2 measuring an extent of 1.00 acre, East of the S. F. No. 164/1, West of the south – north road in S. F. No: 160, North of the 1st item of property in S. F. No. 165/2, South of the properties of Mylasamy Gounder and Ponnusamy Gounder in S. F. No. 165/1. together with all buildings and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth.

Property No.2 : All that piece and parcel of Agriculture land bearing Patta No:643 constituting the below mentioned S.F Numbers located in Kaniyalampalayam Village, Negamam Sub Registration District, Pollachi Taluk (Now Kinathukadavu), Coimbatore Registration District, in the state of Tamil Nadu admeasuring total of 10.46 acres. S.F. No: 258 to the extent of 2.23 acre; S.F. No: 259 to the extent of 3.20 acre; S.F. No: 260 to the extent of 5.03 acre And is bounded as follows: Boundaries for S.F. No: 258 measuring to the extent of 2.23 acre, On or towards the North: S.F No.259; On or towards the South: S.F Nos. 257 & 261; On or towards the East: S.F. Nos 260 & 261, On or towards the West: S.F No.257, Boundaries for S.F. No: 259 measuring to the extent of 3.20 acre, On or towards the North: Solanur Village limit; On or towards the South: S.F Nos. 258; On or towards the East: S.F. Nos 260 ; On or towards the West: Solanur Village limit, Boundaries for S.F. No: 260 measuring to the extent of 5.03 acre, On or towards the North: Solanur Village limit; On or towards the South: S.F Nos. 261; On or towards the East: S.F. Nos 293 & 294; On or towards the West: S.F. Nos 258 & 259

Date : 20.03.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Pollachi **IDBI Bank Limited**

UNION BANK OF INDIA
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Branch–Vasanthnagar Branch (907472)
#11, 'NANDI' 8th Main, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore-560052. Phone : 080-22355308, 22355309,
E-mail : ubin0907472@unionbankofindia.bank

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for 15 days Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of **Union Bank of India (secured Creditor)** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder.

Name and address of the Secured Creditor : Union Bank of India, Branch–Vasanthnagar Branch (907472), #11, 'NANDI' 8th Main, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore-560052.

Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: (a) Mr. Charan Kumar G S/o Mr. Govindaraju No.39/1, PID No.85-23-39/1, Situated at 7th Cross, Byappanahalli Extension K. R Puram Hobli, Bengaluru 560038, **(b) Ms. Anitha N** W/o Mr. Charan Kumar G No.39/1,PID No.85-23-39/1, Situated at 7th Cross, Byappanahalli Extension K. R Puram Hobli, Bengaluru 560038.

Amount due: Rs. 16,82,083/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Eighty Three Only) as on **29.02.2024** with further interest, cost & expenses.

Schedule of Property : All that piece and parcel of the Residential property at Ward No.17, Municipal No.39/1, PID No.85-23-39/1, Situated at 7th Cross, Byappanahalli Extension K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore-560038. This Property comes under the jurisidiction of Sub Registrar K.R.Puram measuring 395.40 sq.ft of land together with Three Floor building, owned by Mr. Charan Kumar G and **bounded on the: East by** : Road, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Site No.38, **South by :** Remaining portion of site.

Reserve Price : Rs. 40,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakh only)
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs. 4,00,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Only) (10% of Reserve Price)
Date and time of E-Auction: 16.04.2024 from 12.00 Hrs to 17.00 Hrs (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last date for submission of EMD : 15.04.2024 On or before the commencement of e-Auction, **E-auction website: www.mstcecommerce.com**

For Detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **(1) https://www.ibapi.in (2) www.unionbankofindia.co.in**
The intending purchaser require to register through :
https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp
The online E-auction will be held through website: **https://www.mstcecommerce.com**
For auction related queries e-mail to eauctionhelpdesk@unionbankofindia.bank or Contact Union Bank of India, Vasanthnagar Branch (907472) Phone : 080-22355308, 22355309, Contact No. Branch Manager (Ms. Shobhana) 9952692685, E-mail - ubin0907472@unionbankofindia.bank

Date: 22.03.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Union Bank of India.**

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2419/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001182)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Work of construction of LILO on 220kV Chinchwad- Telco line at 400kV Chakan s/s using High Performance Conductor (HPC) and 2500 sqmm cable on turnkey basis under Pune Zone MSETCL, Maharashtra"

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website.https://srmetender.mahatransco.in

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 15.03.2024.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT
GENERAL INFORMATION TO PUBLIC

This is to inform that the Income Tax Department has opened a Control Room at Bengaluru which is functioning 24X7 hours till the Date of Polling (i.e., 07.05.2024), exclusively for upcoming Lok Sabha Elections- 2024. Any complaint regarding distribution of cash, freebies or any inducement by any person or parties can be shared with the department by contacting the below mentioned phone numbers or through the e-mail. The names and details of the persons who are sharing information will be kept confidential. All citizens are requested to make use of this facility and share the genuine information.

Toll Free Number : 1800-425-2115
Telephone Number : 080-22862324
Fax Number : 080-22866916
Mobile Numbers (with WhatsApp) : 82774 22825, 82774 13614
E-mail: generalelections2024karnataka@incometax.gov.in

Nodal Officer, Lok Sabha Elections, Karnataka & Addl. Commissioner of Income Tax , Central Range-1 3rd Floor, C.R Building, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001

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The police department team working with the office of the CEO on Saturday seized Rs 5.36 crore cash at the Magadi AC Hejjala checkpost in Bengaluru Rural Parliamentary Constituency

'NUTRITION SHOULD BE TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS LIKE A SUBJECT'

PIC | VINOD KUMAR T

JUST like they say, one size does not fit all, one fixed diet chart does not fit all. One should understand their body type and their needs before choosing the type of diet or following a nutrition fad. In conversation with *The New Sunday Express*, nutrition and wellness expert **Shalini Manglani** says grandmother's recipes are the ideal ones. She explains the importance of following a nutritious, healthy and well-hydrated diet to beat the summer heat and the stress. In fact, she suggests that nutrition should be taught in schools like a subject. Excerpts:

How important is it to maintain a nutritious and healthy diet to beat the summer?
The first thing that comes to your mind when you say 'summer' is the sun and water. So, there's nothing wrong with being in the sun. The sun is great for us, but you should always remember to keep yourself hydrated. Hydration does not mean just drinking tonnes of water. You can also get your hydration through vegetables and fruits and, of course, through water. Eat a balanced meal, your home meal.

Is there anything in particular for students to follow, because it's exam time, and soon after, that they tend to be out?
During exams, it is important to plan and have snacks or meals ready for them. Either the family can help them or they can help themselves. Have food ready at all times, because even when you're studying, you are spending energy, even if it's not physical. Some kids tend to study into the night and that's when you're going to grab unhealthy food. But if you have food ready then they will not go for convenience food.

What should one do while going out as the summer is really harsh?
Hydration is important. Whether it's through fluids — it could be milk, water or flavoured water, watery vegetables and fruits etc — these are the things that'll keep you going besides your meals. Even in restaurants, try not to have fried foods and thick gravies.

What about meals?
A balanced plate is important. Make sure there are vegetables, proteins, and a little bit of carbohydrate....

What advice do you have for politicians, as it's the election season, it's summer and they will be out campaigning?
Ideally, if they can carry their food or if they have the facility they can carry home cooked food or from wherever they are stopping at for campaigning, if they can get some home cooked food, there is nothing like it. It is understandable it could be difficult but ensure to have a balanced diet....We'll divide it into two parts. One is going to be the fluids and the second will be food. For example, suppose they're getting out and they're going to have breakfast, then we want to give them a combination of all. For vegetarians, suppose they're eating puffed rice for breakfast, then the carbohydrates will be the puffed rice, the protein piece will be the dal or peanuts and vegetables. On the side, it would be nice to have buttermilk, yogurt or milk. If the person is a non-vegetarian, then it could be eggs with some chapati or bread, and with that some vegetables. On the side, a glass of milk, buttermilk or yogurt. When they are travelling on the road, instead of buying easy-to-use food, buy bananas and tender coconut water.

There are lots of fads these days, of vegan, keto, intermittent fasting and many others. Is there some sort of an ideal diet?
It's very hard to tell someone not to jump onto a fad. So, it's best that you — even if you start a fad diet — should have a ballpark plan to come back to. I think that's the best way to handle it, because a fad is ultimately a fad. If one thing is popular today, something else will gain popularity tomorrow. Every fad doesn't suit everybody. You have to be a bit cautious of everything. Having said that, intermittent fasting is similar to the fasting that our ancestors did. There are a lot of similarities in it and using that to stay healthy or to lose weight is not bad.

What are the benefits of tender coconut?
It's hydrating. You have to treat the calories as food calories and be cautious about how much one is medically prescribed to have. If it's a snack, one can even have the copra that's inside. That's also very nourishing.

What about eating cut fruits on road sides?
On the road, all kinds of fruits or tender coconut water should do the trick. Having cucumbers is also good, but we have to be careful about hygiene. The easiest thing is banana, orange or things which do not require chopping.

Many youngsters are into bodybuilding, which needs a balance of carbs and proteins. Can you give us more details on what is the right way and how it can be managed?
Before a workout, the body needs energy and carbs give that energy. So, before a workout that's what you should focus on. This could be in the form of chapattis, sweet potato, rice, idli or bread. These are the things to be consumed preworkout and that could also have some proteins. Then postworkout, to focus on protein, the easiest thing — if a person is non-vegetarian — is eggs. For vegetarians, it mainly comes from dal, sprouts or 'cheela' (sweet or savory Indian pancakes made with various kinds of lentil and cereal grain flour). Combinations are however ideal, like dal-rice... it's easier to digest, and a little yogurt works beautifully.

Many people have vitamins B12 and D deficiency. How can this be managed?
Vitamin B12 mainly comes from milk and non-vegetarian products. Several studies show many Indians are Vitamin-D deficient. It's great to go out in the noon sun. There is a lot of research on how people should look at the sun with bare eyes. It was called sun worship and many are going back to that.

Is it sufficient to have just two meals a day?
If it works for you there's nothing wrong. Just make sure that it's a balanced meal. When you say two meals, you can't suddenly cheat and have a snack in between. That's a meal as well.

Is it wrong to snack between meals?
It's bad unless you find yourself in a space where you're getting acidic or you feel like you're not doing alright. Then you need to add a meal. But it is individual-based. What works for one, may not for the other. We have to follow our own and what we've been brought up with. A plan has to be based on how you function.

What should ideally be consumed first when you are breaking a fast?
As the body has been in starvation mode, it's ideal to start with the easiest thing. Any liquid like cumin water or any water that can ease one into other foods is ideal, followed by semi-solid and then solid foods. One can even start simply with warm water and then something simple like idli with a little bit of chutney and then some fruits.

Protein shakes and health drinks have become popular. What exactly should one consume while gymming, especially those who follow their favourite celebs?
Followers should know that celebs have a bunch of people looking after their needs, how much of what they should be eating. Where protein is concerned, protein bars are convenient foods. If one can go home and eat a meal there is nothing like it. But if it's far, then there is nothing wrong with a protein powder, but make sure to speak to the trainer to understand what and how much is needed.

The trend of consuming green tea is on the rise. Along with, it is thought that it helps reduce weight. Is it true?
If one has green tea after 5pm, it is difficult to sleep as tea has caffeine. It is also a decent filler. Instead of telling someone to have just warm water they say have green tea. This is also personal. I don't think it promotes weight loss per se, but it's an adequate filler to have between meals.

> *During exams, it is important to plan and have snacks or meals ready for them... Have food ready at all times*
>
> - **Shalini Manglani**
> Nutrition and wellness expert

People nowadays are stress-eating. What is it, and should it be done?
Eating serves many purposes. It's ideally supposed to be just fuel for the body and nothing else. So that's why it's said that it's nicer if you can just sit in a calm environment without your phone and be grateful for your food. But that's not how we live now. It's a different situation now. For some, for every emotion that happens, food becomes the answer. It becomes like an automatic response and it needs to be broken down psychologically and ensure that emotions do not depend upon food as an answer.

Do you think there is awareness among people in choosing their food?
There is, but it can increase a little more. There are some foods that our palate has become used to. We've grown up with some foods. People should be able to read nutrition labels better. Younger kids are becoming better aware. It should be taught in schools like a subject.

Is the government doing enough?
There is a government organisation called NIN (National Institute of Nutrition) in Hyderabad. They publish material about nutrition and health. But it should reach the people and to mainstream schools. NIN does a lot of research.

What do you say of the government's mid-day meal programme?
It's a boon for children. It brings a lot of kids to school so there's no taking away unless something dubious is happening. Region-wise food division is no problem. For example, if millets are grown in one region and given to children instead of rice, there's nothing wrong. There might be sambar in one place and eggs in another, there is nothing wrong in that too. As long as you find that your meal is balanced, it's fine. Diet should also be based on children's age group and their nutritional requirement. Like young girls aged 10-13 years, they need more iron so that they do not get anaemic. In boys, when they shoot up in height, their nutrition needs will be even more than their fathers. So a balanced diet with more carbohydrates is needed. Any paediatrician or anganwadi worker will be able to give details on this.

Nowadays there is a lot of debate on how eggs should be consumed — fried, boiled, scrambled, omelette etc. Some eat only the egg white and leave the yolk. How should it preferably be eaten?
The difference between different varieties of egg is only about how much oil you put on it. That way, boiled is the best because you don't need to put in any oil. Egg yolk is cholesterol-rich. Egg white is protein. So, it depends on you and your body condition. But studies show that having a yolk a day doesn't harm.

What time gap should one give between a meal and sleeping?
Ideally, two to three hours. If you're someone who wants to follow intermittent fasting, and you've eaten very early the previous day, you could start early (the next day). There are some people who like going straight into lunch, like a two-meal person.

There's a lot of buzz about superfoods, like chia seeds, spirulina, microgreens and then low-fat proteins. Where does that fit in in our traditional Indian diet?
As Indians, we have tonnes of superfoods which we don't even talk about. There's nothing wrong with these superfoods. If it's something you can afford then go ahead.

If planning is so difficult, then what is that one needs to avoid?
We have made it difficult. It's actually not. If we just eat what's given to us at home, it's healthy. Where avoiding foods is concerned, don't refry in oil as much as possible. Eat as little convenience foods as possible, which come in packets.

People seem to be returning to old food habits ... What is your take on this?
It is a cycle. One day one thing is popular and then another day something else. It happens over the years and research will also keep telling you what to follow. Where oil is concerned, rotate oil as much as possible. There are also very interesting ways to cook without oil. Your grandmother's kitchen and recipe is the ideal one.

EXPRESS Dialogues

BJP-JD(S) IN ALLIANCE, YES; BUT YET TO TAKE OFF

WITH the announcement of candidates for most of the Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka, the big picture of the mega electoral battle is getting clearer. But, the much-talked-about BJP-Janata Dal (Secular) alliance is yet to firmly set foot on the ground, although it appears solid.

If the displeasure expressed by JD(S) leaders during a core committee meeting earlier this week is anything to go by, grassroots-level leaders are yet to be taken into confidence by the BJP. It's a warning bell for the BJP to act fast to bring in a proper synergy between the two parties at all levels and avoid creating confusion, anxiety, and bad blood within JD(S) against the alliance.

In the meeting attended by former prime minister HD Deve Gowda and former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy, many JD(S) leaders expressed discontentment over the BJP not involving them in campaigning or election-related work and not inviting them to the PM's rallies in Kalaburagi and Shivamogga. The regional party leaders felt that in 18 Lok Sabha seats, they could help the BJP by transferring three to four percent of votes. But, if the BJP fails to utilise its services and takes a hit, it would be responsible for it.

Kumaraswamy, who spoke to the media after that meeting, did convey the displeasure expressed by the party leaders. But, it looked as though he was holding back more than what he was expressing. On their part, Deve Gowda and Kumaraswamy seem to be trying their best to send out the right message to their cadres and to the BJP leaders to ensure NDA candidates' victory in all the LS segments. They have asked the JD(S) leaders to coordinate and cooperate with the BJP. The JD(S) is proactively campaigning in the Bengaluru Rural seat where noted cardiologist and Deve Gowda's son-in-law Dr CN Manjunath is contesting on the BJP ticket.

However, the enthusiasm seen in the initial days of forging the alliance is not visible anywhere except in Bangalore Rural. The BJP needs to show that it is accommodating and flexible where needed, as the broader contours of the agreement have been agreed upon. Ironically, they are yet to hold joint conventions or meetings to discuss joint strategies at the local level. If the alliance has to serve its intended objective, the bonhomie between the top leaders of both parties needs to trickle down to booth level.

From the BJP's point of view, there is hardly any scope for complacency, especially when there is no one-sided contest in any seats in the state. Striking the alliance was just one part of the job done. They need to hold joint conventions in all constituencies so that workers from both parties operate as a cohesive unit.

Failure to ensure both parties work together at ground level could even backfire. In 2019, when Congress and JD(S) faced the polls together, they could not ensure synergy between the two. Not just that, in many places, internal contradictions in the alliance helped the BJP. However, there are many differences between the Congress-JD(S) alliance in 2019 and the BJP-JD(S) now.

In the Lok Sabha elections, which will be mostly centred around the performance of the Union government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, and guarantee schemes, the alliance partners' success depends on their ability to supplement each other. For example, BJP's support will be crucial for JD(S) in Gowda's home district Hassan, and the regional party's support can greatly help BJP in the Bangalore North LS seat. Apart from many other seats, the BJP needs JD(S) in Mysuru, Tumakuru, and Chikkaballapur to woo dominant Vokkaliga community votes. Even in seats like Bidar in Kalyana Karnataka, JD(S) could play a vital role for BJP.

In Karnataka, the Congress is a formidable force capable of exploiting the fault lines in the alliance as well as rumblings within the BJP after the announcement of the tickets. Congress would be hoping to consolidate minority and Kuruba community votes and if it manages to get the Vokkaliga community's backing it can be a force to reckon with in the Old Mysuru region. That's where the JD(S), a smaller partner in the alliance, could play a big role. In North Karnataka and coastal Karnataka, it would be a direct fight, with the BJP having a slight advantage in many seats.

Congress, which failed to convince its ministers to contest the LS polls, has given the tickets to several kith and kin of ministers and top leaders. That is nothing new in Congress, but this time, it has reached new heights. The ministers will no doubt make all-out efforts to ensure that their children win elections. Youngsters, even if they are from political families, may bring a fresh perspective to politics, but only time will tell how the party cadres and voters perceive such a strategy.

In this election, Congress leaders would find it morally difficult to attack the JD(S) as a family party!!!

POLITICAL THEATHER

Seat pact: JDS to get Hassan, Mandya, Kolar

BENGALURU: After much deliberation, the BJP has decided to give three Lok Sabha seats in the state to alliance partner Janata Dal (Secular). Addressing a party leaders' meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday, BJP state election in-charge Radha Mohan Das Agarwal said they have decided to give Hassan, Mandya, and Kolar Lok Sabha seats to JDS. The BJP leader said they are fighting the battle along with the JDS, and will work shoulder-to-shoulder with JDS candidates. Former chief minister and JDS state president HD Kumaraswamy had recently stated that they would get Hassan, Mandya, and Kolar, and had asked the party leaders to start preparations. Asked what will be Mandya MP Sumalatha Ambareesh's role with Mandya being given to JDS, Agarwal said her political future is bright. In the 2019 LS polls, Sumalatha won from Mandya as an independent, backed by the BJP. This time, she was trying hard for the BJP ticket to contest from Mandya.

Vote for Cong, save Siddu's seat: KSRTC chairman

TUMAKURU: Former minister and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) chairman SR Srinivas, who is also the Congress MLA, has said that if the Grand Old Party does not perform well in the Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah may have to step down. "Today, we have a Congress government in Karnataka. If we don't win more seats in the Lok Sabha elections, Siddaramaiah will have to resign taking moral responsibility. Hence, we should all work to save Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who works for the poor," Srinivas, a Vokkaliga leader, said at a party workers' meeting in Tiptur. Replying to Srinivas' statement, Siddaramaiah refused to comment, saying that he did not know in what context the former minister had spoken. A four-time MLA, Srinivas, has been campaigning extensively for Congress candidate from Tumakuru, SP Muddahanume Gowda.

Hassan DC told to respond to Gowda's plaint to ECI

HASSAN: The office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Karnataka has sought an explanation from Hassan deputy commissioner and district electoral officer C Satyabhama on a complaint by former prime minister and JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda. In his complaint to the Election Commission of India (ECI), Gowda made five allegations against the DC and demanded that she be transferred from Hassan. Gowda alleged that the DC acts at the behest of the Hassan district in-charge minister. At a recent public function in Banavara in which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah participated, the DC directed the revenue officials to bring beneficiaries of various guarantee schemes to the event, Gowda alleged. With this being the situation, Lok Sabha elections may not be conducted in a free and fair manner in the district, Gowda stated. In the letter sent on March 21, the CEO directed the DC to submit her comments within 24 hours of the direction from the ECI. The Chief Electoral Officer also directed the DC to submit a report and forward the same to the ECI. Meanwhile, Satyabhama said that she has been working honestly without any bias.

Congress appoints KPCC working presidents

BENGALURU: Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the Congress has appointed new working presidents for its Karnataka unit and revamped the Campaign Committee with a new chairman and vice-chairman. Senior leaders Tanveer Sait, GC Chandrashekar, Vinay Kulkarni, Manjunath Bhandary, and Vasanth Kumar have been appointed as the working presidents. Sources said the Congress was planning to revamp the state unit after the party formed its government in Karnataka last year. Working presidents of the party were given other responsibilities in the government and the party. Satish Jarkiholi, Eshwar Khandre, and Ramalinga Reddy are ministers, MLC Saleem Ahmed is the Chief Whip of the party in the Legislative Council, and BN Chandrappa is contesting the Lok Sabha polls from Chitradurga. The party has also reconstituted its Campaign Committee ahead of the LS polls. Senior leader and former minister Vinay Kumar Sorake is appointed as the chairman of the Campaign Committee. Dr L Hanumanthaiah will be co-chairman and MLA Rizwan Arshad will be the vice-chairman.

Bapatla SP Vakul Jindal ordered a probe against Ballikaruvu police inspector for allegedly harassing a person and for violating MCC. Officials received complaints against SI Naga Siva Reddy for harassing a grocery shop worker, and interacting with a political party

KERALA MOVES SC AGAINST PREZ FOR WITHHOLDING BILLS

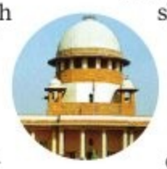
Petition urges apex court to declare President not granting assent to the bills without reason unconstitutional

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

IN an unusual move that could initiate major legal debates, the Kerala government has approached the Supreme Court against President Droupadi Murmu withholding assent to four bills passed by the state assembly.

The petition urged the court to declare the President not granting assent to the bills without assigning a reason as unconstitutional.

The state government has named the Union government, the secretary to the President of India, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan who referred the four bills to the President, and his additional secretary as respondents in the case.



The suit, filed through advocate C K Sasi, challenges the legality of the President's action to withhold assent to the bills referred to her. It will also spark a constitutional debate on whether the President's action comes under judicial review. The President's secretary is the prime respondent in the suit filed by chief secretary V Venu and Perambra MLA T P Balakrishnan.

According to the state government, the governor should not have referred the bills to the President as they deal with matters falling in the state list of the Constitution. None of the seven bills had anything to do with Centre-state relations.

They had been pending with the governor for about two years and his action "subverted" the functioning of the state legislature, rendering its very existence "ineffective and otiose", it said.

"The bills include public interest bills which are for the public good, and even these have been rendered ineffective by the governor not dealing with each one of them 'as soon as possible' as required by the proviso to Article 200," the plea said.

"The conduct of the governor in keeping bills pending for long and indefinite periods of time, and thereafter reserving the bills for the consideration of the President without any reasons relatable to the Constitution is manifestly arbitrary and violates Article 14 (equality before law) of the Constitution," the plea said.

Equally, the aid and advice tendered by the Union of India to the president to withhold assent to the four bills, which are wholly within the domain of the state, while disclosing no reason whatsoever, is also manifestly arbitrary and violates Article 14.

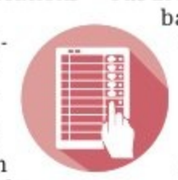
FAILED ALLIANCE

BJP upbeat, BJD wary, Cong relieved

PRASANJEET SARKAR
@Rourkela

AFTER the collapse of the alliance talks between BJD and BJP, fresh polling equations of the three main players in the politically significant Sundargarh district are worth noting.

The rank and file of the saffron party are upbeat to the extent of celebrating, as on Friday evening BJP workers celebrated the news with bursting of firecrackers at half-a-dozen locations in Rourkela.



The BJD is cautiously silent and reassessing its victory prospects, while Congress seems heaving a sigh of relief and secretly happy over the breakdown of the alliance possibility. Not that the Congress aspires big, yet it feels happy only for being saved from complete annihilation in Sundargarh in the upcoming assembly and Lok Sabha polls on May 20.

BJP insiders said the local leaders and rank and file of the BJP in Sundargarh were at unease about the alliance as they are confident with the results of 2019 in Sundargarh, claiming that now, the popularity of BJP across the country and Odisha is at its top. In 2019, the BJP had won the Sundargarh Lok Sabha seat with a record margin of 2.23 lakh votes. Between 1998 and 2019, the LS seat was with BJP five of six times.

It was in 2019 that the BJP also won the Sundargarh, Talsara and Birmitrapur Assembly constituencies, while the Rourkela and RN Pali constituencies were in the kitty of BJD and the Congress emerged victorious in Rajgangpur. The CPM backed by Congress won the Bonai assembly constituency. Regardless of BJP's rise, the BJD too has had a parallel rise in Sundargarh.

After 2019, the BJP has not yet shown any remarkable election winning ability. The BJD in 2022 had swept the Sundargarh Zilla Parishad election and the Rajgangpur and Birmitrapur municipality polls, while BJD tasted partial success in the Sundargarh municipality poll. BJD's State General Secretary and former Sundargarh MLA Jogesh Singh in a guarded reply said the BJD is with the people always and voters have unstinted faith in the BJD government led by CM Naveen Patnaik.

EXPRESS READ

TTD EO to visit SL to finalise temple site

Tirumala: TTD executive officer AV Dharma Reddy will be visiting Sri Lanka to finalize the site for Lord Venkateswara temple, and establish a permanent setup of temple administration. A Sri Lanka-based Trust approached the Government of India for help in the construction of a massive Hindu temple of Lord Venkateswara in their country.

SSI caught crossing over to Bangladesh

Chennai: A special sub-inspector (SSI) attached to the Selaiyur police station in Chennai has been detained by the Bangladesh army on the charge of trying to enter the country by illegally crossing the border. John Selvaraj (47) was on medical leave. Police sources said they were probing into his possible link to cross-country gold and drug smugglers that may have led to the misadventure.

ED searches properties of Kavitha's kin

Hyderabad: The ED officials on Saturday, searched the residence of a relative of BRS MLC K Kavitha, in connection with the alleged Delhi liquor scam. ED officials visited Mesineni Akhila, Kavitha's sister-in-law (husband DR Anil's sister) and resident of Block A, DSR Homes in Madhapur. The team was probing Meka Sri Sharan's role in the alleged liquor scam.

BJP slams K'taka govt for approaching SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Opposition BJP has slammed the state government for approaching the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Centre to release funds for drought relief.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka termed it as a politically motivated decision, and it is a dark day in the history of Karnataka. Ashoka said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah thinks that his only job is to point fingers at the Centre for all his mistakes.

Siddaramaiah should learn from Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on how to work with the Centre in a federal system, the BJP leader said.

"After the election, keep politics aside to focus on administration and give priority to safeguarding the interests of the people," Ashoka said. Sacrificing the interests of the people to set a political narrative is not good and history will not forgive Siddaramaiah, the BJP leader said.

POLL READY

Posters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar appear in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday ahead of the Lok Sabha elections

Siddu: Spoke to Shah, Modi over drought relief

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On December 19, 2023, he and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and apprised him of the drought situation in the state. The next day, they met Union Home Minister Amit Shah. But no action was taken to provide funds to the state, he said.

Siddaramaiah claimed that he even reminded Modi of the state's request for funds when he visited Bengaluru on January 19. The state government has released Rs 450 crore to supply fodder and Rs 870 crore to provide drinking water to the affected villages. For drought management, Rs 800 crore is in the accounts of deputy commissioners, he said.

The state needs Rs 4,600 crore to be given to farmers as input subsidy. In this situation, funds should have been released without any delay. But the state hasn't received NDRF funds even after five months. So, the government had to approach the Supreme Court, Siddaramaiah said. Siddaramaiah along with Congress legislators and MPs from the state recently staged a protest in New Delhi against the Centre for the alleged denial of state's share of tax money.

Fraudsters target people seeking part-time jobs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The officer, who requested anonymity, explained: "There are two kinds of mule accounts, one where the victims willingly provide their details against a promise of receiving a 1% commission on credited amounts. In these cases, the account holder is often unaware of the source of funds."

The other is well-executed with a 5% commission, wherein bank account holders lose access to their accounts without their knowledge. This is done through various websites that are frequently deleted within a week. The websites — like gaming websites — are designed in a way that the victims are prompted to pay a certain amount for which they get 'double credit points' for the amounts they pay. For such transactions, different numbers linked to different UPI accounts are provided for victims to pay.

Subsequently, the fraudsters target people for part-time jobs involving checking and verifying bank transactions originating from these gaming apps. The process ensures that both — the individuals paying for the gaming sites and those verifying the bank details — remain unaware of the larger scam, the officer explained.

"In such cases, within a week, the website's URL is altered, and many mule accounts are blocked. Out of multiple mule accounts that were cracked, only eight accounts remain unblocked. When we verified and traced the account holders, they said they were unaware of having a bank account. During investigations, it was revealed that these victims had shared their Aadhaar card and PAN details, which were exploited by the fraudsters," the officer added. Ultimately, all the funds funnel into the hands of a mastermind orchestrating the scam, who either converts the money into cryptocurrency or has an international bank account for easy withdrawal.

The senior officer highlighted: "While individuals must be cautious in all financial transactions, financial institutions, including private and regional banks, should enforce strict protocols for account creation. The ease of opening an account solely with a SIM card, just by accessing another individual's government ID proof, complicates the investigations."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client, **Sri. BHADRA SHETTY,** S/o Thimma Shetty, residing at No. 363, 9th Main Road, M.S. Ramiah Lay-out, 8th Mile, Nagasandra Post, Bengaluru-560 073 hereby informs that the Original Registered Sale Deed dtd. 25-7-1998, Document no. YLNK/1969/1998-99 Book I before the Sub-registrar, Yelahanka, Bengalore, which have been lost/ misplaced while shifting the House My client has also lodged a police complaint on 6-3-2024 before Bangalore City Police with Last report No. 0963462/2024. Any person's in possession of the aforesaid document may return the same to me or anyone having any sort of claim over the said property may lodge their objections in writing **within 15 days** from this day to the undersigned.

ANURADHA D. Advocate
No. 48, 1st Floor, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar T Dasarahalli, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby put to notice that our client **SMT VEENA B K** has entered into Sale Agreement to purchase the Schedule Property from its original/lawful owner SRI. NAGESHA R S/o.Sri. Ramaswamy.C R/at Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru 98.

This public notice is issued to invite objections, if any, from concerned parties regarding the Schedule Property transaction. Any objections or claims concerning the ownership, title, or any other legal aspect related to the Schedule Property should be submitted in writing within 15 days from the date of this notice to the undersigned Advocate. If no objections or claims are registered/lodged, our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction to purchase the Schedule Property free from all encumbrances. Any claims received beyond 15 days will not be considered. In the absence of any objections within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that there are no encumbrances or disputes regarding the property, and the transaction will proceed accordingly.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing Site No. 365/M, situated at 5th Phase of Vishwabharathi Housing Complex Layout, Sachidananda Nagar, carved out of land bearing sy no 237/2 of Halagevaderahalli, Kengeri, Bangalore, now falls within the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Ward No. 160, and assigned with BBMP Khata No. 618/365M/655/610. Measurement: East to West: 30-0 feet, North to South: 50-0 feet, Total Area: 1500 Square feet. Boundaries:
East: Site No. 365/L; **West:** Site No. 365/N; **North:** Park; **South:** Road.

ROHITH K REDDY Advocate
RLC Legal Solutions
Office at No. 1509, Ground floor, 5th stage, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru - 560098 Mob - 9742028999
Email: advocaterohitreddy@gmail.com

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.,

15/1, Hayes Centre, Hayes Road, Bangalore -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

E-auction Sale Notice For Sale Of Immovable Assets Under the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act 2002, R/w Provision To Rule 8(6) Of The Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002

The E-Auction sale notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) and guarantor(s) that , the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of L.I.C. Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization & Reconstructions of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued Demand Notice to following Borrowers/Mortgagors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, The Borrowers/Mortgagors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken SYMBOLIC POSSESSION of the following properties in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules. The mortgaged property will be sold on As is where is Basis', 'As is what is Basis', 'Whatever there is' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis'.

Loan No./ Name of Borrower/Co–Borrower	Property Address and Flat Area/ UDS of land
M/s. Regaliaa Buildtech & Mr. Anup Shyam Karnani, M/s. Regaliaa Buildtech (Regalia) Loan No. 411900012004 & 411900013088	SCHEDULE PROPERTY-'A' All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted bearing: Survey No.132/1B admeasuring 9.76 guntas, Survey No.132/1A admeasuring 19.99 guntas, Survey No.133/2 admeasuring 28.02 guntas, Survey No.133/1 admeasuring 32.27 guntas, Survey No.134/1 admeasuring 10.91 guntas, i.e. admeasuring in the aggregate 2 acres 21 guntas all of and situated in Nagawara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, in the State of Karnataka and bounded as follows; On or towards the North : by Proposed 100 Ft Approach road / Tanisandra Main Road, On or towards the South : by portion of Sy No.132/2 On or towards the East : by proposed 100' wide Tanisandra main road. On or towards the West : by remaining property of the owner, SCHEDULE PROPERTY-'B' : 60% of undivided share right, title & interest in the Second Schedule 'A' property, measuring 66.129 sq.ft and the super built-up area to be constructed thereon, (1) Comprising of shopping area, anchor area, food court and stalls, etc. In the basement to the seventh floor(Excluding hotel area fallen to the share of land owner) 133377.69 sft (2) Share in multiplex (undivided by metes and bounds) : 50318.64 sft Total Developers Share/Area : 181472.71 sft. (3) 60% of Car parking spaces in the building. SCHEDULE PROPERTY-'B1' ; Undivided share of 60% in land admeasuring in the aggregate 2 Acres 20.95 Gunthas (the said plots of Land), all of and situated in Nagavara Village, kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, in the State of Karnataka, Bengaluru 560077, more described as Schedule "A" Property amounting to 66,129 sft and 60% area allotted to the share of developer in the gross super built up area of 50,708.96 sq mtrs as mentioned herein below.

Particulars	Developers share (sq.Mts)
Mall area	20.364.36
Multiplex area	1,894.49
Basement area for car parking	8,127.62
Total	30,386.47

Particulars	Owners share	Developers share	Total (Sq.Mts)
Multiplex area	5,683.49	1894.49	7,577.98

Particulars	Owners share	Developers share	Total (Sq.Mts)
2nd basement floor	4,269.67	1,935.90	6205.57
1st basement floor	1,148.75	6,191.72	7,340.47
Total in sq mtrs	5,418.42	8,127.62	13,546.04

Super Built up Areas Allotted to the share of the Developer/Land Owner in terms of the Area Sharing Agreement dated 14-11-2014

Particulars	Mall area (Sq. Mts)		
Floors	Owners share	Developers share	Mall area total
Ground floor	-	5,010.37	5,010.37
First floor	-	4,632.64	4,632.64
Second loor	-	3,357.69	33,357.69
Third floor	-	3,681.83	3,681.83
Fourth floor	-	3681,83	3,681.83
Fifth floor	-	-	-
Sixth floor	-	-	-
Seventh floor	-	-	-
Terrace floor	-	-	-
Total in sq mtrs	-	20,346.36	20,346.36

Number of car parking spaces including Mechanical Parking

Particulars	Owners share	Developers share	Total
2nd basement floor	252	86	338
1st basement floor	-	292	292
Total car park	252	378	630

Date of Demand Notice	17 MAY 2022
Reserve Price (Amount in Rs.)	228,00,00,000/- (Two Hundred And Twenty-eight Crore)
EMD (10%) of Reserve Price	22,80,00,000/- (Twenty-two Crore Eighty Lakhs)
Bank details (EMD to be transferred to)	Beneficiary Name : LIC Housing Finance Ltd Beneficiary Branch Name : Axis Bank, Centralised Collection Hub Account Number : HFLESCBABC12004 IFSC Code : UTIB0CCH274
E-AUCTION DATE	08.04.2024
LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF E-BID FORM	06.04.2024

Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LICHFL invites online mode to purchase the said properties on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".

THE TERMS & CONDITIONS OF THE AUCTION SALE ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. E-Auction is being held on 'As is where is Basis', 'As is what is Basis', 'Whatever there is' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis', and will be conducted "Online".
2. The intending bidders are advised to visit https://online.lichousing.com/eauction/ for the details of the properties in the website and for taking part in the bid and proceed further. For any further details contact Authorised person Phone No. : 9380020741/9972022461
3. The successful bidder/s shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the EMD paid already, immediately/within next working day on acceptance of offer by the Authorized officer in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited. The balance 75% of the sale price is payable within 15 days from the date of confirmation of the sale solely at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited. The Authorized Officer shall not be required to give any further notice of forfeiture to the successful bidder.
4. Bidding increment fixed for Rs.25,00,000/- increment per BID.
5. Bidders are bound by the principle of "caveat emptor" (Buyer Beware) and advised to conduct their own due diligence to find any encumbrances, statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, Income Tax, Excise Duty, Labour Dues, electricity and maintenance dues etc., of the firm or Secured Asset. The Successful bidders shall have to bear all outgoing i.e., municipal taxes, maintenance/society charges, electricity charges, water charges, stamp duty, registration charges, taxes, or any other duties ,if any and all other incidentals charges, cost including all outgoing relating to the respective properties other than the sale price.
6. The L.I.C Housing Finance Limited reserves the right to CANCEL / ACCEPT / REJECT / ALTER / MODIFY / POSTPONE the TENDER SALE / AUCTION without giving any reason whatsoever or prior Notice.

Place: Bangalore

Authorized Officer & Manager,
Mr. Arokia Ezhil Nilavan, L.I.C Housing Finance Ltd, Back Office, Bangalore

"The poet is an untier of knots, and love without words is a knot" — Gabriela Mistral

GLOBAL SPECTRE OF HIGHER-FOR-LONGER INTEREST RATES

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic*, *Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

THE markets are calling it the 'everything' rally. US benchmark index S&P500 is hovering near its all-time high. The Nasdaq Composite and the Dow Jones Industrial Average reached new all-time highs mid-week. In India, the Nifty50 is yo-yoing around its high watermark of 22,526. Theory has it that there is a correlation between the prices of gold (and bitcoin) and stocks, and that seem to be unravelling. Gold prices touched a new high of $2,222.49 an ounce this month. Bitcoin, that enigmatic article of faith, is bouncing off its record price of $73,797 touched on March 14. It would seem the financial markets have discovered an antidote to gravity.

The gyrations in financial markets are riveted on estimations and expectations of the cost of money. Every central bank in the world is avowedly data dependent—effectively, this means they will cut or not cut rates on the basis of incoming data on inflation, employment and growth. This week, the US Federal Reserve presented the summary of economic projections for 2024, 2025 and 2026. It is estimated that US GDP will grow at 2.1 percent—faster than the December estimation of 1.4 percent. Unemployment will not fall as previously expected. Inflation in March was at 3.2 percent, core inflation will hover at 2.6 percent and will persist well above target till 2026. Notwithstanding the reality, the federal funds rate is projected to dip to 4.6 percent from the current band of 5.25 to 5.5 percent.

Naturally, the market, thrilled with the projection, is expecting three rate cuts this year. But what explains the rationale for the expectation of a cut when none of the moving parts of the economy are flashing amber or red? The fall in inflation is engendered by supply side improvements—in the availability of goods and labour via an increase in immigration. The euphoria in the markets is curious as the Fed rate curve continues to range between 3.4 and 4.1 percent even in 2025, which translates into a higher neutral rate. Fed Chair Jerome Powell, when asked about the gap between target and stance, observed, "Markets believe we will achieve that goal and they should believe that, because that's what will happen over time." Even Alan Greenspan, who mystified markets with his articulation, would have been mystified!

Why does all this matter to India? Over three decades back, in February 1990, Don Brash at the Bank of New Zealand introduced the idea of targeting inflation at 2 percent. The usage of the phrase 'over time' by Powell suggest that the Federal Reserve is comfortable with a higher-than-targeted inflation. And what happens in the US does not stay in the US, as the Federal Reserve practically sets the tone. Indeed, a day later, Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey signalled that rate cuts are on their way.

Tolerance for higher inflation effectively translates into a higher cost of capital the world over. This has implications for India and other developing economies. To start with, the higher-for-longer global regime dashes the hopes of those expecting the Reserve Bank of India to trim rates following the slide in core inflation—what was anyway unlikely in April may not happen in June either.

Currently, the RBI's repo rate is at 6.5 percent, 10-year GoI bond yields are around 7 percent and prime lending rates are upwards of 9 percent. The expectation has both political and economic elements—particularly given the narrative of lower private final consumption vis ₹ vis the overall GDP and the misery expressed by companies facing demand de-growth at the frontiers of the lower quintiles.

All economics is defined by politics. It is clear that sustaining growth and employment is paramount for the advanced economies as these nations enter the demographic dip. Higher growth in the US, for instance, is enabled by fiscal spend under the Inflation Reduction Act to subsidise onshoring of investment—the US can afford adding a trillion dollars to its debt every 100 days as the dollar enjoys exceptional privilege.

The worry in the advanced economies is about sustaining consumption. The concern for India and other developing economies will be to sustain investment. The strategy of the government to boost investment to crowd in private sector capex is riveted to public programmes.

India boosted overall public sector capital investment from ₹5.6 lakh crore in 2014-15 to ₹18.6 lakh crore in 2023-24 and this has had a visible impact on GDP growth. A report published by CRISIL shows that India will spend ₹143 lakh crore on infrastructure between now and 2030—twice the ₹67 lakh crore spent since 2017. It is true that robust tax collections—GST and direct taxes—have enabled the ramping up of investment in infrastructure. It is equally evident that the cost of capital matters. The ambitious fiscal deficit target of 5.1 percent and the quest for a superior rating by global agencies demands a revival of ideas left dormant—from privatisation and asset monetisation to raising resources.

India has won accolades for the management of macro fundamentals. The context demands that the new government's 100-day programme factors the spectre of higher-for-longer cost of capital and design a timeline for reducing deficit and retiring debt as it drafts the roadmap for Viksit Bharat.

AN ARREST AND A POLITICAL RIDDLE

OPINION

SANTWANA BHATTACHARYA
Editor
Follow her on X @santwana99

NO one had said the run-up to the general elections would be boring. But what's the right word for the collective state of mind we find ourselves in presently? Shashi Tharoor may have offered 'discombobulated'. Insta-kids may just say 'shook'. Even by the standards of the shock-mongerers and scandal junkies we have become—where the next headline has to be dripping tabloid yellow and the next fix must leave us ever more off-balance—the political events over the last fortnight have been rather astounding.

You could say it started with Nitish Kumar's stunning political pirouette over a month ago. It has ended with an event that marks another U-turn, this time unfolding in agonising slow motion and forced by circumstance rather than taken by volition. It has taken Arvind Kejriwal a full 180 degrees from his original perch as a patent-holder on public morality to a place where he proposes to run a state government from prison. The puppet master in both cases is the same: the ruling BJP, which is itself in the midst of shaking off the chastisement that has come its way unbidden via a series of stern, unsmiling Supreme Court rulings on electoral bonds, and perchance finds the creation of parallel headlines a useful distraction for a punch-drunk populace. They are not fully unconnected, of course. In some of the later revelations, we now see that one of the accused-turned-approvers in the Delhi liquor scam had in the interim donated good money to the BJP via electoral bonds. Also to the BRS!

But we need not get detained here by the nitty gritty of either the case that has now swept the entire top layer of the Aam Aadmi Party leadership into various legal stages of incarceration or the dizzying financial rabbit-holes that the other one takes us through. It would suffice to leave a sticky note here to remind everyone that *The New Indian Express* was the one that broke the first story on AAP's liquor policy. And capable public-spirited individuals (and collectives) are putting Arun Jaitley's masterpiece to a good post-mortem: the case is anyway complex enough to have left an ace lawyer like Harish Salve, who perhaps charges the worth of a good-sized electoral bond by the hour, with scalded omelette on his face in full

PTI

court. Our gaze must be equally fixed on its effect on the political landscape, which is going into high flame with just three weeks or so left for voting in a general election. And everyone is equally foxed on that front.

What explains the BJP's decision to go for broke in this manner? Unlike with plain old loyalty reversals like with Nitish or the RLD's Jayant Chaudhary, here things are not fully self-explanatory on the tactical plane. Because even the best possible outcomes for it do not, at first sight, seem commensurate with the political risk it is courting. Why would they want to see a sitting chief minister in jail on the eve of elections? And almost directly ask to be screamed at from Opposition campaign stars and loudspeakers as being heavy-handed and resorting to a vindictive weaponisation of central agencies—in fact reinforcing, rather than disarming or deflecting, a pre-existing negative narrative?

The quantifiable benefits, if they do come about, are not great. Delhi, even with the Congress and AAP pooling its votes, was fifty-fifty and even theoretically at most they can gain one or two seats. On the other hand, in Punjab—with its history of dissent towards the Dilli durbar, given a fresh coat of paint recently with the farm protests—it may actually be a vitamin shot for AAP. Its presence in Haryana is still not significant enough to warrant even this sentence. And the only other playfield where it enters its name is Gujarat, where again a Congress-AAP union offers an interesting experiment. But no one expects a swing that would alter national equations there—the only conceivable argument is that the BJP wishes to stub out the chances of even a moral victory to the Opposition in Narendra Modi's home state. Symbolically, a seat in Gujarat perhaps weighs as much as two-three in, say, Odisha.

On the other hand, on the friable plane of perceptions, what accrues to the BJP's image plays out on the national stage. Expect West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee to not exactly be coy or dulcet-toned as she raises the issue of central excess. Likewise for the Yadav phalanx of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, Haryana's Jat patriarchs in the Congress, Karnataka's D K Shivakumar—all of them singed episodically by the same approach, and thus ready and authentic with their anger. Tamil Nadu's M K Stalin, Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan, Andhra's newly alienated Jagan Reddy—not to mention the BRS in Telangana, which has managed to find itself a meaty walk-on part in the Delhi liquor scam and consequently has seen the former chief minister's daughter also land in gaol. The other name people are forgetting amidst all the hullabaloo over Kejriwal is that of Hemant Soren, who thought it fit to resign as Jharkhand chief minister before walking off to his cell. Why would a ruling party that wants to minimise Opposition chances hand them a whole pantheon of martyrs with which to move the electorate to sympathy?

Super-confidence, to the point where some would say it borders on hubris? Or a well-thought-out burst of aggression as a double bluff, coming from a place that's less secure than the sense it puts out for public consumption? That is, offence as another line of defence? For, the outward impression this generates is surely that of a party which can only be utterly sure of its hold on power—where no chance exists of a blowback that could shake its boat. In this reading of what the BJP would like to put out at the level of pure animal signalling, a more visibly insecure party would play safer. And that would actually embolden the rivals. This take-no-prisoner approach, to twist the literal facts metaphorically, on the other hand creates a ground of invincibility and fear. The idea that this is an entity that acts on the promises and threats it makes, in open-air speeches or behind closed doors. Once a promise, pledge or threat is not acted on, the next one loses its value. That signal goes out both to political parties—friends, potential friends, foes—as well as to the masses of bhakts and beneficiaries out there.

Every political party stakes some kind of claim on public morality, but most often this is not universally accepted and appeals only to those who anyway have a confirmation bias. Even AAP, whose whole *raison d'être* was based on such a claim, too has joined the ranks of other parties on this front. The BJP's tactical approach, which could confound any attempt at conclusive analysis, most certainly goes beyond that realm of naivete.

WEAVING A CIRCULAR ECONOMY OF TEXTILE

OPINION

GEETHA RAVICHANDRAN
Former bureaucrat and author, most recently, of *The Spell of the Rain Tree*

WHILE growing up in Chennai, I saw the neighbourhood abuzz with a special kind of activity at least three or four times a year. The women of the household would exchange used clothing for brand new, shiny stainless steel utensils after some hard bargaining and intense analysis. At the end of the transaction, all concerned parties would beam with satisfaction.

This vibrant circular economy that functioned at our doorsteps has receded with greater urbanisation. However, most of us have retained the sense of value of used household goods. We respond with enthusiasm to donation drives and acknowledge the benefits of upcycling and recycling. Nevertheless, there is a need for a systematic approach to harness the potential of this resource.

India produces almost 1 million tonnes of textile waste. A significant proportion of this is waste generated from households. A large quantity of textile waste material finds its way to landfills or incinerators. This contributes to environmental degradation and pollution. Considering the global repercussions of growing consumerism, the UN Environment Programme in 2019 introduced a Textile Flagship Initiative to bring about systemic changes towards sustainability and circularity in the textile sector. The focus is on improving consumption patterns and encouraging reuse with an eye on the potential environmental impact.

The existing trend of fast fashion is to a large extent fuelled by ease of purchase, online sales and marketing blitz. The adverse impact on the environment, pollution of both land and water, is more due to the use of synthetic fabrics, as also fabrics that lack of durability. On a positive note, sustainable fashion or eco fashion, which promotes reuse of garments and sourcing them from natural, eco-friendly material is also gaining popularity.

Recycling of textile waste is finding growing support from governments, producers and consumers. Recycling involves different processes with a variety of end results. Textile waste recycling yields only a small quality of usable fabric. The end products of recycling may find use in chemical and even construction industry when synthetic fabrics are involved. However, recycling comes with an environmental cost when it involves mechanical and chemical processes.

I recently had the opportunity to interact with a non-profit in a village in northern Tamil Nadu that upcycles clothes. Technology is leveraged to match the availability of donors and the requirements of recipients. Used garments, mostly saris, are collected and sorted according to their condition. Damaged or faded pieces are converted into bags, cushion covers and other items. The better-quality garments are washed or dry-cleaned, mended and presented to rural women—they are displayed in an outlet where the villagers walk in and pick up a couple of pieces free of cost. This gives them the option to choose, as they would from a shop. Saris are one of the most versatile garments and pre-loved saris are welcomed gladly.

India produces almost a million tonnes of textile waste, most of which finds its way to landfills or incinerators. We can have a conscious clothing movement involving the upcycling and recycling of clothes

Upcycling of expensive garments is also picking up as a business model, where designer brands are made available at competitive prices. If this were to catch on, it would limit the stress on raw material resources and reduce the impact on environment. Many brand outlets allow their customers to bring in used clothes and award discounts in return.

It is important to raise awareness among those who donate clothes that some attention is to be paid to quality if it were to be of any use to those in need. Donations must be made at a stage well before the fabric deteriorates. As someone very aptly said, clothes mean something only when someone lives in them. Degraded clothes do not serve any purpose. The stories of 'dead white man's clothes'—that started their journey as charity in the West and ended up in landfills in Africa—only show how onerous thoughtless giving can be. The outcome is merely the shifting of an environmental burden to the Global South.

The textile industry is a complex business involving long and diverse supply chains. It leaves behind considerable carbon footprints. The present pattern of over-consumption is at the root of the problem. Therefore, what is reusable needs to be retrieved.

Policy support for organisations working towards sustainability would make a difference. A suggestion that cropped up from a person working in this field is granting of carbon credits to those who promote best practices in sustainability. This would serve as a well-deserved incentive, boost the conscious clothing movement and promote a circular economy. It is important to realise that sustainability cannot be an afterthought. It must be integrated at the stage of production itself. Perhaps, the time is ripe to wear our hearts on our sleeves and let the world know that we are concerned about our planet.

QUOTE CORNER

We're going to kill all the French soldiers who come to Ukrainian soil. All of them! Today in Ukraine there are 13,000 mercenaries, including 367 French, of whom 147 have already been killed. So there are 147 citizens of France who have been killed in Ukraine. And we're going to kill every single one of them, don't worry.

Pyotr Tolstoy, Deputy Chairman of Russia's State Duma, to a French TV channel

We see our history in the eyes of the Palestinians, a story of displacement, deprivation, a denied national identity, forced migration... and now hunger.

Leo Varadkar, Irish Taoiseach, at a press conference with US President Joe Biden; Varadkar unexpectedly resigned the next day

It's very important for the national team to have a psychologist to help the players. Only we know the pressure we suffer, not just on the pitch but off it too.

Richarlison, Brazil and Tottenham Hotspur forward, on the induction of a psychologist in the Brazilian national football team staff

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

No plutocracy

Your editorial on inequality dispassionately analysed the disparity between the haves and the have nots. Nevertheless, that India's Gini coefficient fell over the last 10 years is a matter of satisfaction in terms of reducing the chasm. It will go further down when systemic loopholes are shut. Plutocracy is impossible in a big nation like India where the electoral franchise is subconsciously embedded in our psyche, albeit with not much knowledge of economics and distributive justice.

Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Five solutions

Here is a realistic five-point solution to reduce economic disparities. One, tax the super-rich more. Two, nationalise partly or fully the profit-guarantee sectors such as health, education and nutrition; fix charges according to income groups. Three, improve the conditions of the unorganised sector too, which has been the hardest hit. Four, fix an upper pay limit and increase the lower one. And five, use green methods to save more.

P V Madhu Nivriti, Secunderabad

Arrest timing

The erstwhile champion of the anti-corruption movement, Arvind Kejriwal, now has a record in his name of being arrested on corruption charges while being chief minister. However serious and just may be the cause, it seems the timing of his arrest is politically motivated. Of course, he is also seemingly interested in the timing to get maximum mileage, if his non-compliance of repeated Directorate summonses is any indication.

D V G Sankara Rao, Vizianagaram

Credibility test

It is difficult to believe a leader like Arvind Kejriwal, who led a movement against corruption that was acclaimed and respected across the nation at one time, is today behind bars for corruption. Without sufficient grounds, the Enforcement Directorate wouldn't have dared arrest a sitting chief minister. Now it boils down to the fact that in power politics, no leader's claim of being clean is credible.

Geetha B K, Kannur

Unfair comments

The obsession with fair complexion is purely personal and Kalamandalam Satyabhama is no different on that. But vituperative comments coming from a veteran dance teacher is grossly unfair. It implies the teacher would not entertain disciples who are dark-skinned or would not support them in performing beyond amateurish stages. In classical music, women are storming into the male bastions of percussion and nadaswaram, to name a few. There are no complaints. Ramakrishnan's passion for Mohiniattam is in the same line.

Sanath Kumar T S, Thrissur

Anachronistic directive

In this digital era, I fail to understand the logic behind the RBI directive instructing banks to keep their branches open on Sunday, March 31 to handle government business. I wonder what prevented the concerned departments from passing the bills sufficiently in advance. As a banker, I remember the days before the advent of computerisation when the branches of mainly the State Bank of India were kept open well past March 31 midnight, and were permitted to close only after getting confirmation that no more treasury bills were pending.

B C Unnikrishnan Nair, Kuthiathode

Reimburse state

Ref: *Ponmudi gets back his ministerial berth; CM thanks apex court* (Mar 23). It is 100% clear that the TN governor was wrong in going against the decision of the government and the court. Had the governor obeyed the court like any other citizen, the TN government needn't have gone to the apex court spending tax-payers' money. I wish the governor would also face the consequences. The TN government should sue the governor for payment of court expenses incurred. This will be a lesson for the governor not only in TN, but in other states too.

Rajakumar Arulanandham, Tirunelveli

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda
A strong supporter of political purity and transparency, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia ushered in a new era of nationalist thinking and social empowerment with his principles and ideals.

Sanjay Jha @JhaSanjay
When a political party in power fears defeat, and worries that it may not win again, democracy slides into dangerous territory. India is in such a phase.

Aaditya Thackeray @AUThackeray
The regime is sending out a message to the world on a daily basis, that they don't wish the country to be a democracy anymore.

BJP's 5th list likely to be out today

The protracted CEC meet considers the possibility of repeating many MPs and Union ministers

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PM Narendra Modi and BJP national president JP Nadda, along with other senior leaders during the CEC meeting at party headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday | PTI

THE BJP's Central Election Committee (CEC) met for the third time at the party headquarters on Saturday to finalise candidates for the remaining Lok Sabha seats.

The protracted meeting took up for discussion potential candidates and considered the possibility of repeating many MPs and Union ministers following feedback received from state units.

The third CEC meeting was held soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned from the Bhutan trip. The CEC members were closeted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and JP Nadda. The criteria for potential candidates included their "suitability as per social equation" and "winnability as per their public connect and political standing" in line with the party's target of winning 370 seats.

"The names shortlisted in recent rounds of state core committees' meetings were discussed for various states including UP, Bihar, Punjab and other states. The fifth list of candidates after the approval of the CEC is likely to come by tomorrow as the nomination for the first phase of LS elections has already begun," said a senior party leader.

On Saturday, sources said, the discussions were held on the candidates in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, West Bengal, and Bihar.

"The CEC members shared their opinion before the PM on the names of many sitting MPs. Prominent among them whose candidatures are learnt to have been discussed are Varun Gandhi (Pilibhit), Menaka Sanjay Gandhi, VK Sigh , Brij Bhusan Singh (former president of WFI) and some Union ministers," said a source.

"As the alliance in Odisha could not materialise, the party also discussed the potential candidates for that state too. It is expected that some new faces would be fielded in the state," said a BJP source.

He said the party was considering candidates at least in 400 Lok Sabha seats.

"PM Modi looks at all factors that match with emerging political situations and social equations before giving approvals along with other members of the CEC. There is a possibility that only a few MPs would be dropped to accommodate new faces or newly inducted members," said a source, adding that candidates may be finalised for 90-100 LS seats.

Hours before the CEC met, Shah and Nadda reportedly briefed the Prime Minister about seat-sharing with the allies as well as a breakdown of talks with some regional parties in states like Odisha.

The BJP has so far fielded 291 candidates out of the expected figure of nearly 400 candidates. In the first phase of the list after the CEC meeting earlier, the candidates for 195 LS seats were announced followed by 72 candidates in the second list, 9 in the 3rd list and 15 in the fourth list.

Prominent leaders who are in fray after the first and second meetings of the CEC are Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi, Amit Shah from Gandhinagar, Nitin Gadkari from Nagpur, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Rajnath Singh, Smriti Irani, Piyush Goyal, Anurag Thakur, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Arjun Meghwal, L Murgan, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, V Muraleedharan, and others. Among the candidates in the fray, three are former chief ministers and one a former governor.

The fifth list of candidates for over 90-115 Lok Sabha seats after the approval by CEC on Saturday is expected to be released on Sunday.

ARVIND KEJRIWAL

THE DRAMATIC TURN IN AN ANTI-GRAFT CRUSADER'S LIFE

SHAHID FARIDI

How have you fallen from heaven,
O star of the morning,
Son of the dawn.

Mandar Pardikar

THE Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal, who rose to become chief minister of Delhi in a short time, is not exactly Lucifer. But the irony is that a leader who emerged from a campaign against corruption has been arrested on charges of corruption. The Enforcement Directorate has taken Kejriwal into custody to interrogate him about the charges of corruption in the formulation and implementation of the new excise (liquor) policy for the year 2021-22 by the Delhi government headed by him. The ED, while seeking remand for his custodial interrogation, told the special court in Delhi, "Kejriwal has conspired with other persons and was actively involved in formulation of policy for facilitating kickbacks and has played a role in generation, use and concealment of proceeds of crime."

It is a steep fall for an IIT-educated revenue service officer, who resigned from a coveted government job to launch a transparency campaign which earned him the Ramon Magsaysay Award. But people who have worked closely with Kejriwal are not surprised at the way things turned out for him. His most prominent associate, Anna Hazare, said, "He was arrested due to his deeds. He would not have been arrested if he had not done what he did."

A vegetarian and a teetotaler, Kejriwal's contribution in framing India's transparency law, RTI Act, is widely acknowledged. He came into national limelight when he partnered with social activist Anna Hazare to launch a campaign for appointment of Lokpal to ensure probity in public life.

But then things changed. Anna Hazare left him. A large number of other associates, who are widely respected in their fields, parted ways after working with the AAP chief for some time. Among them are Narmada Bachao Andolan convener Medha Patkar, Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Royal Bank of Scotland country chief Meera Sanyal, low-cost airline pioneer Captain Gopinath, top Apple executive and grandson of Lal Bahadur Shastri, Adarsh Shastri, top lawyer Prashant Bhushan, and academic-turned-politician Yogendra Yadav.

NEWSMAKER

Some of them have revealed that they parted with his company because they found him no different from other politicians. A former AAP leader said, "At least others have some intellectual honesty. The Congress says it stands for secularism and it has stood by that principle for the last 75 years. The BJP has its own set of principles and policies, and the party has stayed with them. For Kejriwal, winning election and wresting power for himself is the only goal. He is extremely self-centred and autocratic. He does not allow anyone to get in the way of his quest for power."

Similar views were expressed by another former AAP leader who had worked closely with Kejriwal. There is an account about a fund-raising visit of an AAP team to Canada, UK and the United States before the 2017 Punjab elections. It revealed Kejriwal's transformation from a campaigner for transparency and probity in public life to a politician. The party delegation visited a gurdwara in Brampton near Toronto in Canada. The gurdwara was filled with pro-Khalistan people. A huge portrait of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale hung prominently on a wall and there was a martyrs' gallery filled with pictures of bodies of those who lost their lives in the Golden Temple in Amritsar during Operation Blue Star. The AAP delegation encountered similar elements in other gurdwaras.

When the delegation members informed Kejriwal about the anti-India sentiments in the foreign gurdwaras and expressed reluctance in carrying on with their meetings, they were reportedly told by the AAP chief to ignore the ideology and focus on fund-raising. Other political parties alleged that the AAP campaign in Punjab was being run by Khalistanis. Kejriwal was so sure of his party's victory in Punjab in 2017 that he had sent his party's top spokespersons to all the TV channels. When the results started coming in and it became clear that his party was routed at the hustings, the spokespersons were asked to blame the EVMs.

AAP leaders are also full of stories on how Kejriwal conspired to oust other prominent leaders of the party in order to take full control of its affairs. In March 2015, after winning the Delhi assembly elections, Kejriwal decided to expel senior leaders, especially Yogendra Yadav and Prashant Bhushan. A few of his trusted MLAs were called to a flat in North Avenue by his close associate. The MLAs were asked to attack Bhushan and Yadav at the party's next National convention, which was to be held a few days later. They were told that the party chief wants them to demand the ouster of the duo. The party cadre was similarly prepared to raise slogans against Bhushan and Yadav and demand their expulsion. The meeting went exactly as per the planned script.

Anna Hazare highlighted that Kejriwal used to be against consumption of liquor, but ended up getting caught in a case relating to sale of liquor. The AAP chief has started his political innings as a leader leaning more towards the Left, but ended up looking like a right-winger. So much so that he was labelled an RSS man by critics.

India will ramp up assets to secure IOR, says Navy chief

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

Pirates, apprehended by the Indian Navy in an operation off Somalia coast, being handed over to police after arrival in Mumbai on Saturday | PTI

Warship with 35 Somali pirates reaches Mumbai

Warship INS Kolkata, carrying 35 pirates who were apprehended in an operation off the coast of Somalia, reached Mumbai on Saturday morning, the Navy said. These pirates were then handed over to the Mumbai police, it said. The exercise was undertaken as part of the ongoing Operation Sankalp, wherein Indian Navy ships are deployed in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden for the safety of seafarers and mercantile trade passing through the region.

WITH piracy rising in the Indian Ocean Region, the Indian Navy has enhanced its asset deployment and will continue to take "affirmative action" to secure the region, Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said on Saturday.

The Navy has apprehended 35 pirates and brought them to Mumbai to be tried under the Indian Anti-Piracy Act, 2022.

"Piracy has resurfaced as an industry to profiteer or to gain from the disorder that is happening in that area (Indian Ocean). And we are determined that we will not permit that. That's why we are taking affirmative action," Admiral Kumar told reporters.

He termed the continuing high-tempo operations as a testament to the "new and confident Bhartiya Nau Sena."

"These 100 days of sustained Operation Sankalp have broken the myth of short and swift operations. Therefore, there is a need to realise that we have been able to carry forward sustained operation if we need to ensure there is safety, security and stability in the ocean," the Navy chief said.

"As of yesterday, we had 11 submarines operating simultaneously in the sea where more than 35 ships and over five aircraft deployed in different parts of the Indian Ocean Region," he explained.

With vessels being targeted by drones, missiles and then by the pirates, Operation Sankalp Phase 2 was launched. The Phase 1 was initiated in 2008.

"The Navy has been deploying continuously. I would say about 10 ships are present in this entire region to carry out three tasks — anti-piracy, anti-hijacking and anti-drone. Right from the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden to the North Arabian Sea and to the East Coast of Somalia, this is the area that we are operating where we have deployed these ships," he said.

With the rising incidents, the High Risk Area has already come back in many ways, he said. The Indian Ocean was removed as High Risk Area in 2023 as there was reduced piracy threat since 2018.

On the question of the Indian Navy's actions and interests in the region, the Admiral said, "We have an interest because there are Indian crew onboard almost all these ships. As far as we are concerned, Bharat's (India's) national interest also extends to our personnel who are there all over the world..."

As drones can be manufactured locally, this has now brought to the fore the cost asymmetry between the attacker and the defender, he said. "You make a drone for, say, as cheap as less than ₹10-20 lakh and if you have to defend it and shoot it down, the missile will cost ₹5-10 crore," he said.

China upset equilibrium on border: EAM

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

THE Chinese went and disturbed the equilibrium when, in 2020, they chose to do something they did on the border, which was violative of the conditions we had reached, said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Singapore on Saturday.

"We know that the border issue is complex and can take time. We are not talking about solving the boundary issue. We are talking about maintaining peace and tranquility on the border. From 1975 to 2020, nobody got killed on the border. We need to have stabilisation of the situation on the border," Jaishankar said, while delivering a lecture on his book, 'Why Bharat Matters'.

It is important not to miss the woods for the trees, he said. "We are trying to find a way out and it is not easy, I have tried to talk this at my level, the diplomatic level, and at least 20 cross border talks," he said, adding that both India and China have a history and population that sets them apart from the rest.

On banning Chinese apps, he said China generates data and one needs to be careful on where it is used. "One needs to ask a question on how comfortable one would be with sharing what data in what place," he said.

Digvijaya, Danish Ali, Karti, Tagore in Cong 4th list of 46 candidates

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Saturday announced the fourth list of 46 candidates for the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls. The prominent names in the list include former Madhya Pradesh chief minister **Digvijaya Singh**, Karti Chidambaram, **Danish Ali** and Manickam Tagore, among others. The Congress has so far announced 185 candidates in four lists for the seven-phase polls beginning April 19.

The candidates announced in the latest list hail from Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, J&K, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The party named nine candidates for the politically crucial Uttar Pradesh. However, Amethi and Raebareli didn't figure in the list. There is speculation that Rahul Gandhi may also contest from Amethi apart from Wayanad, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from Raebareli, a seat which was previously held by Sonia Gandhi.

As speculated, Danish Ali was fielded from his seat Amroha. Ali, who was expelled from the BSP, joined the Congress early this week.

The party fielded UPCC chief Ajay Rai from Varanasi against PM Narendra Modi. While Imran Masood was fielded from Saharanpur, Tanuj Punia will fight from Barabanki.

The key candidates announced in the seven seats of Tamil Nadu include MP Manickam Tagore from Virudhunagar, former Union minister P Chidambaram's son Karti from Sivaganga, S Jothimani from Karur, Vijay Vasanth from Kanya Kumari and Sasikanth Senthil from Tiruvallur.

Digvijaya's name figured among the 12 seats announced in Madhya Pradesh. He will be contesting from Rajgarh.

The first list featured top guns, including Rahul Gandhi, Bhupesh Baghel, K C Venugopal, Shashi Tharoor among others. Gandhi is contesting from Wayanad against CPI's Annie Raja.

The party's second list included MP Nakul Nath as the candidate from Chhindwara and Vaibhav Gehlot, former CM Ashok Gehlot's son, from Jalore. The Congress deputy leader in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, was named as the candidate from Jorhat.

EC seeks report from Punjab on hooch deaths

MUKESH RANJAN & HARPREET BAJWA @ New Delhi/Chandigarh

WITH six more people succumbing on Saturday, the death toll due to suspected consumption hooch in Punjab's Sangrur district rose to 21.

A four-member special investigation team (SIT), led by ADG (law and order) Gurinder Singh Dhillon, will supervise the probe. So far, six arrests have been made in the case.

The Election Commission (EC) has sent notice to the state government seeking an immediate report from the chief secretary and the DGP on the tragedy. Sangrur, where the tragedy took place, is the home district of CM Bhagwant Mann.

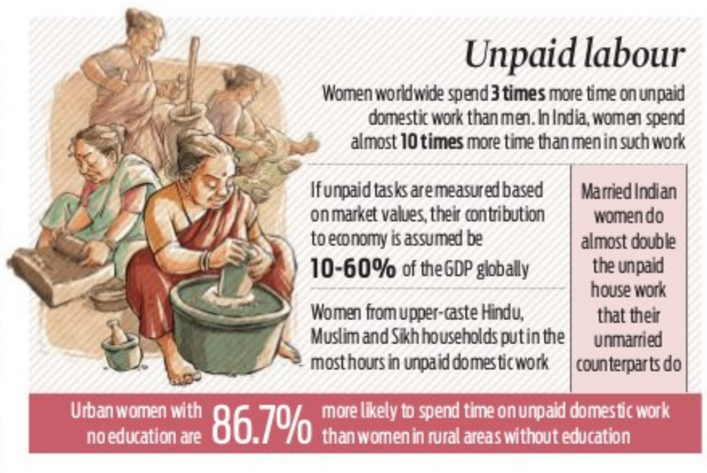
According to reports, the civil surgeon in Sangrur has confirmed that while seven patients were still admitted in the district and five in Government Medical College, Patiala, two opted for private hospitals against medical advice.

Of the deceased, seven are from Gujran village, represented by Finance and Excise Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, and eight from four different villages of Sunam constituency, represented by Cabinet Minister Aman Arora.

According to EC officials, the hooch incident indicates that a widespread distribution network of spurious liquor is in operation across Sangrur.

'Indian women do domestic chores 10x than men'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi


Unpaid labour
Women worldwide spend 3 times more time on unpaid domestic work than men. In India, women spend almost 10 times more time than men in such work
If unpaid tasks are measured based on market values, their contribution to economy is assumed be
10-60% of the GDP globally
Women from upper-caste Hindu, Muslim and Sikh households put in the most hours in unpaid domestic work
Married Indian women do almost double the unpaid house work that their unmarried counterparts do
Urban women with no education are 86.7% more likely to spend time on unpaid domestic work than women in rural areas without education

INDIAN women work 10 times more than men on unpaid domestic chores and caregiving, compared to their counterparts in other parts of the world, a study has revealed.

However, educated women are better placed in workload management, according to the research conducted by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), both in Mumbai.

Confirming that married Indian women bear a disproportionate burden — almost double — of unpaid work compared to their unmarried counterparts, it said women from upper-caste Hindu, Muslim and Sikh households put in the most hours in unpaid domestic work.

"Women worldwide spend three times more time on unpaid domestic and care work than men, but in India, women spend almost 10 times more time than men," the study published in the Journal of Family and Economic Issues said.

It also pointed out that not only does the presence of school-age children increase the amount of time women spend on unpaid domestic work, but women living in a nuclear family, on average, have higher levels of unpaid work than those living in multigenerational households.

The study said women aged six years and above spend 301 minutes on unpaid domestic work compared to men who devote 98 minutes to the same.

Quoting data from the Time Use Survey of India (2019), conducted by the National Sample Survey Office in January-December 2019, the study said that while natal parents are more supportive than in-laws, the education of parents and in-laws has a significant impact on unpaid domestic work.

Unpaid work of women reduces in female-predominant households, while it increases in male-predominant homes.

RHINO KILLED

The carcass of a male rhino, suspected to be killed in infighting, was found in Assam's famed Kaziranga National Park on Saturday, officals said. The carcass had severe facial injury marks and deep wounds.

2 NAXALS KILLED IN C'GARH, 2 SUSTAINED INJURY

Ahmedabad	36	24	Mumbai	33	26
Bhopal	27	22	Panaji	33	24
Jaipur	35	23	Patna	33	23
Amritsar	29	17	Lucknow	34	20
Chennai	31	27	Port Blair	31	27
Kolkata	33	24	Imphal	24	17
Srinagar	17	06	Chandigarh	28	18

DECIDE ELECTION2024

■ Promises direct transfer of ₹1L into bank a/cs of poor women ■ Nitish is expected to re-nominate majority of MPs

CHHATTISGARH

'Nari Nyay' guarantee on top of party agenda: Pilot

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THE Congress in Chhattisgarh is set to launch a campaign to assist women fill up the forms on 'Nari Nyay' guarantee promising a direct annual fund transfer of ₹1 lakh into the bank accounts of poor women.

Galvanising the party cadres into a battle ready mode for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, State incharge for Congress Sachin Pilot on Saturday asserted that "the fight is now to save the country".

"The Congress candidates in fray, party campaigns, the guarantees on 'Nyay', 10-year of misgovernance and failures of the BJP-led Centre and the soon to be released manifesto will boost the prospect of the Congress party. The Modi government is misusing the central agencies like Enforcement Directorate, CBI, Income Tax raids in targeting opposition leaders", he added. Pilot chaired separate crucial meetings of senior Congress leaders, office-bearers, party functionaries and coordinators at Rajiv Bhawan in Raipur, where he took feedback to chalk-out a strategy for the forthcoming elections on 11 Lok Sabha constituencies.

The ruling BJP has nine MPs, while the remaining two seats are with the Congress. "Besides, with the key issues of high inflation, problems faced by farmers and unemployment remaining, the country today faces threats to the Constitution and the democratic institutions are under attack. So the upcoming elections are not ordinary polls.

"To prevent the main opposition Congress from accessing a level-playing field to contest the elections, the bank accounts of the party have been frozen. The onus now lies more on the Congress workers to take up the challenge and be a part of various organised aggressive campaigns", he said. Pilot exuded hope that there will be unprecedented results in favour of the Congress with far-better success in the Parliamentary polls.

The Congress will soon declare the candidates for the remaining five constituencies as the party is focusing on women, farmers and youth through various pledges declared for them. The BJP, however, has been asserting that the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections assume much significance as it will determine the future of the country.

Chhattisgarh in-charge for Congress Sachin Pilot

'High inflation, farmer issues threat to Constitution'

Pilot chaired separate crucial meetings of senior Congress leaders, office-bearers, party functionaries and coordinators at Rajiv Bhawan in Raipur. He points out key issues of high inflation, problems faced by farmers and unemployment remaining as threats to the Constitution. Pilot said that the onus now lies more on the Congress workers to take up the challenge and be a part of various organised aggressive campaigns. He exuded hope that there will be unprecedented results in favour of the Congress with far-better success in the Parliamentary polls.

BIHAR

3 MPs may be dropped in JD(U) list of 16 candidates

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

BIHAR Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal (United), a major ally of BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), is expected to announce names of its candidates for all the Lok Sabha seats on Sunday.

Sources claimed that JD(U) has finalised its candidates on almost all 16 seats. It is expected that the party would re-nominate the majority of its sitting MPs.

However, three sitting MPs, including Mahabali Singh from Karakat and Kavita Singh from Siwan, are expected to be dropped this time.

Former MP Anand Mohan's wife Lovely Anand is likely to be fielded from Sheohar Lok Sabha constituency, currently being held by BJP. The seat has gone to JD(U) under seat-sharing formula among constituents of the NDA. Under the seat sharing arrangement among constituents of NDA, BJP was given maximum 17 seats followed by JD(U)16 seats, LJP (Ram Vilas) five seats and Hindustani Awam Morcha and Rashtriya Lok Morcha one seat each.

Meanwhile, JD(U) on Saturday gave a rude shock to its NDA partner Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) led by former union minister Upendra Kushwaha by re-inducting president of its Bihar unit Ramesh Kushwaha. Ramesh Kushwaha's wife Vijay Lakshmi also joined the party in presence of senior JD(U) leader and state finance minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Kumar Jha, state party president Umesh Kushwaha among others.

Sources claimed that JD(U) might field Vijay Lakshmi from Siwan Lok Sabha seat, which is being represented by Kavita Singh. It was like a homecoming for Ramesh Kushwwaha who was a JD(U) MLA from 2015 to 2020.

In the 2020 state assembly election, he wanted a party ticket for his wife but he left the party when his demand was not conceded.

Replying to a media query whether re-inducting Kushwaha would not weaken an alliance partner, senior JD(U) minister Chaudhary vehemently denied it and contended that there was nothing like weakening any party as Kushwaha was taken back into the JD(U) with an objective to strengthen NDA only.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

Former MLA Ramesh Singh Kushwaha returns to party

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) on Saturday re-inducted former MLA Ramesh Singh Kushwaha, who had quit the party a few years ago and joined fellow NDA partner Rashtriya Lok Morcha headed by ex-Union minister Upendra Kushwaha. The induction of the former MLA, who had represented the Ziradei seat in Siwan district, along with his wife Vijay Laxmi, was announced before the press at the JD(U) office. Welcoming the couple into the party, its national general secretary Sanjay Kumar Jha said the couple had met the chief minister.

BSP MP expelled for indiscipline

Ram Shiromani Verma, the Bahujan Samaj Party MP from Uttar Pradesh's Shravasti, was expelled from the party on Saturday on charges of indiscipline and anti-party activities. A letter by BSP district president Lal Chand Kori stated that Verma was continuously involved in anti-party activities and indiscipline. He was warned several times but there was no improvement. Keeping this in mind, the MP was expelled, the letter said.

14 criminal cases against Pramanik

Union minister Nisith Pramanik, who has been renominated by the BJP in Cooch Behar seat for the Lok Sabha elections, has 14 criminal cases pending against him, according to an affidavit filed by him along with his nomination paper. Of the 14 cases pending against the Union Minister of State for Home, nine were registered between 2018 and 2020. The other cases were filed between 2009 and 2014, as per the affidavit. He joined the BJP in 2019 after he was expelled from the TMC.

BJP ally refuses to campaign for BJP

The Mahayuti ally Prahar Janshakti Party led by MLA Bacchu Kadu threatened that if BJP nominates sitting independent Lok Sabha MP Navneet Rana from Amarawati Lok sabha seat, then he will not campaign for BJP or may field his own candidate. Kadu and the Rana couple – MLA Ravi Rana and his spouse Lok Sabha member Navneet — don't see eye to eye. Kadu, therefore, was against the fielding of Navneet. She was jailed for chanting Hanuman chalisa in front of ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray's residence.

BJP worry refuses to die as 2 candidates say no to fight

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

THE BJP candidates from Vadodara and Sabarkantha Lok Sabha seats in Gujarat on Saturday expressed their unwillingness to contest the general elections citing "personal" reasons, bringing to the fore discord within the ruling party.

Ranjanben Bhatt, the BJP MP from Vadodara, declined to contest despite being offered the ticket for the third time. She made her decision public through social media posts.

Bhikaji Thakor, BJP candidate from Sabarkantha, also expressed his unwillingness to contest the elections. Shortly after Jyoti Pandya, former national vice president of the BJP's Mahila Morcha, was suspended for opposing Bhatt's candidacy, the Vadodara MP withdrew from the Lok Sabha election race, citing "personal reasons."

Through posts shared on her social media profiles, Bhatt said that she had informed the party of her disinclination to contest.

"Considering the developments of the past ten days since my candidacy was declared, I concluded that despite receiving the party's ticket, I should refrain from contesting. I reached this decision while reflecting upon the situation... I remain committed as a BJP member and will endeavor to secure victory for the party in this constituency, regardless of the next candidate," Bhatt told reporters. Her candidature had faced stiff resistance from some sections within the BJP.

Following Bhatt's announcement, Thakor said on social media that he was "unwilling to contest due to personal reasons." In a video message, he said, "I have decided to step back for social reasons. Our commitment remains unwavering in securing victory for the party. We will achieve success."

Gujarat BJP chief CR Patil

'Personal reasons'

BJP's Vadodara and Sabarkantha candidates expressed their unwillingness to contest the general elections citing "personal" reasons. MP Ranjan Bhatt said she was not keen on fighting the elections after she had faced stiff resistance from some sections in the BJP. Bhikhaji Thakor, however, maintained his stance on not contesting due to personal reasons

BJP's decision to stay out of Outer Manipur seat triggers unrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

THE BJP's decision to not contest from the Outer Manipur constituency in the Lok Sabha elections and instead, support the Naga People's Front (NPF) candidate has met with opposition.

Hundreds of alleged BJP workers vandalised the party's district office in Senapati town on Saturday. The protestors said when they expected the party to field one of its grassroots workers in the seat, it decided against contesting and support the NPF candidate.

The BJP had on Friday stated that it would extend its support to the candidates of NPF in Outer Manipur seat, National People's Party (NPP) in the Shillong and Tura seats in Meghalaya and Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) in the lone seat in Nagaland. The NPP and the NDPP are BJP's allies. The NPF is BJP's partner in Manipur but not in Nagaland.

By not contesting in Meghalaya, the BJP returned the favours to the NPP. The NPP, which Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma heads, earlier decided not to contest in the two seats of Arunachal Pradesh and support the NDA candidates.

The BJP renominated its sitting MPs – Union minister Kiren Rijiju in the Arunachal West seat and Tapir Gao in the Arunachal East seat. Sangma welcomed the BJP's decision. He was confident it would brighten the NPP's poll prospects. However, according to BJP insiders, the party workers were not happy with the decision.

UTTAR PRADESH

Parties vie for a pie in Muslim votes spread across 2 dozen seats

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

WITH the eight Lok Sabha seats of western UP set to vote in first phase on April 19, the battle for Muslim votes is taking a three-way turn in the state. While traditionally the SP-led INDI Alliance and BSP have base in the community, the BJP has been reaching out to the Pasmanda (backward) Muslims who have benefitedfrom welfare schemes, experts say.

Constituting 19 per cent of the UP population, Muslims hold key in at least two dozen seats where they are 20-50 per cent of the electorate. In this election, the benefit of traditional Muslim loyalty to the Congress will be reaped by INDIA, according to analysts. The SP has been following the Muslim-OBC formula to garner votes. This formula pushed the SP tally from 47 MLAs in 2017 to 111 in 2022 Assembly polls.

In 2019 Lok Sabha polls, SP and BSP were in grand alliance in UP and major benefit was reaped by Mayawati-led party which took its tally to 10 MPs in 2019 from zero in 2014.

According to political experts, the Muslim voters deserted the Mayawati in 2022. This time, when Mayawati is going it alone in UP, the SP is putting an all-out effort to effect a shift of Dalit votes towards it besides the backward and Muslims to improve its tally in Lok Sabha through its formula of PDA (Pichhada, Dalit and Alpsankhayak).

The BJP is trying to make inroads in the Muslim areas through its yatras and meetings in Muslim-dominated areas during the last year. The party had fielded 395 Muslim candidates in urban body polls in a bid to reach out to the community in 2023.

'19% of UP population'

Constituting 19 per cent of the UP population, Muslims hold key in at least two dozen seats where they are 20-50 per cent of the electorate. In this election, the benefit of traditional Muslim loyalty to the Congress will be reaped by INDIA, according to analysts.

BJP shakes hands with Raj, stokes Maha anger on 'shrill Marathi-manoos' pitch

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE BJP's decision to tie up with the Raj Thackeray-led MNS for Lok Sabha elections may backfire following perceived anger among North Indians, who are in significant numbers in Mumbai, against a shrill 'Marathi-manoos' pitch of MNS in the past.

In Mumbai, the Marathi population is around 30%, while North Indians count around 20%, Muslim are 18%, South India 10% while the rest are Gujaratis Christians and other communities.

"No one has forgotten the MNS tirade against North Indians. They beat up the poor auto and taxi drivers and others for "snatching" local people's jobs. We are against the BJP for tying up with chauvinist forces. This BJP decision has forced us to think twice before supporting the BJP," said a North Indian leader.

RU Singh, former president of a North Indian outfit supported by BJP admitted that there is bitterness. "However, people have largely forgotten the bad memories about Raj Thackeray. "I do not think North Indians will go against the BJP," Singh added.

A senior BJP leader said there is some disquiet in the party over the party's alliance with MNS. "It has reopened the old wounds of North Indians. We cannot forget Raj Thackeray and his men beating up poor working people. They even beat the students who came from North India in search of jobs. There will be some impact, but it will be marginal in the elections," he added.

Another leader said that they would never vote for the MNS . "We won't vote for non-BJP candidates. In this case, people may vote for Uddhav's Shiv Sena or Congress," he added.

WARM WELCOME

BJP candidate for Vidisha Lok Sabha seat Shivraj Singh Chouhan participates in celebration of Bhagoria festival during his election campaign in Sehore | PTI

BJP eyes hat-trick in U'khand, zeroes in on 22 Assembly seats

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE BJP secured consecutive victories in the last two Lok Sabha elections, winning all five Lok Sabha seats from Uttarakhand. It is now setting its sights on a hat-trick in the state.

The party's focus is on 22 assembly constituencies where it faced setbacks in the previous assembly elections. This proactive approach by the BJP has further compounded the Congress challenges. The opposition party is already in disarray and lacks coordination.

Reports say two BJP candidates have also filed their nomination papers, while the Congress is yet to declare its candidates Haridwar and Nainital.

Speaking to this newspaper, Manveer Chauhan, the state BJP media in charge, said that Trivendra Singh Rawat submitted his nomination papers for the Haridwar seat online on Friday. Ajay Tamta also filed his papers from Almora, while Mala Rajya Laxmi Shah and Anil Baluni are supposed to follow suit from for Tehri and Pauri seats respectively on March 26.

In the 70-member state Assembly, the BJP won 47 seats in the previous assembly elections. The party had to face defeat in 23. In view of the Lok Sabha elections, the BJP has opened its doors to other parties, including the Congress. In such a situation, it has succeeded in bringing Congress MLA Rajendra Bhandari from the Badrinath seat under the Garhwal parliamentary seat.

According to party sources, the BJP has managed to capture all the 14 assembly segments that fall under the Garhwal parliamentary seat. Now it is focusing on 22 assembly segments that fall under the remaining four parliamentary seats. The party is working on a separate strategy for achieving its target.

Sources said the party is concentrating on the assembly constituencies of Pratap Nagar, Yamunotri, and Chakrata within the Tehri parliamentary constituency. The party is focused on Pithoragarh, Dharchula, Almora, Dwarahat and Lohaghat.

Survivors of Moscow terrorist attack recount night of horror

Some had no option but to play dead to evade attention of attackers, I fell to the ground and pretended I was dead; a woman who was injured in attack told RT

MOSCOW

SURVIVORS of Friday's terrorist attack on Moscow concert hall were still in a state of shock as they recounted the night of horror. Dave Primov, who was in the hall during the attack, described panic and chaos when the attack began. "There were volleys of gunfire," Primov told the AP. "We all got up and tried to move toward the aisles. People began to panic, started to run, and collided with each other. Some fell and others trampled on them."

Upon realising that gunmen could come from any direction, he and many others tried to move upstairs. "We understood that they could come in from any door with machine guns, and we tried to move to the nearest exit upstairs. Slowly, single file, crawling, forward, upward, we crawled out," he said. Natalya told Reuters that "shots came from behind us". "It was loud, like a firecracker blast, fireworks, but like an automatic burst. I could hear it right behind me, not far away," she said. Some had no option but to play dead hoping they could evade the attention of the attackers. I fell to the ground and pretended I was dead. A girl near me was probably killed," a woman who was injured told RT.

As per hospital data, there were children among those injured, some as young as seven."People carried their children in their arms. No one knew where it was safe at the time, there was this incomprehensible feeling of what could meet us in the hall, or on the street," lawmaker Ayder Metshin, who was among those who had gathered to watch the concert told RT. Chaos and confusion continued on Saturday with some unable to find their kin.

Semyon, 33, whose wife was at the venue, said "nobody knows" where she is. "I've called five hospitals, all busy," he said. "I'm in a complete panic, my whole body hurts."

Fire set off by the attackers quickly spread through the building, making it more difficult for people to escape.

Witnesses told Reuters that they had to leap over fire to escape the building. In the process, some of them sustained burn injuries.

Some Russian news outlets suggested the assailants fled before special forces and riot police arrived.

In Moscow, residents stood in long lines in the rain to donate blood for those hospitalised, according to videos posted by state media outlets.

Law enforcement officers working inside the Crocus City Hall, a day after a gun attack in Krasnogorsk, outside Moscow. Camouflaged assailants opened fire at the packed Crocus City Hall in Moscow's northern suburb of Krasnogorsk on March 22 | AFP

Work on critical care to wounded in terrorist attack finished

MOSCOW: The main work on emergency care to those wounded in the terrorist attack at Crocus City Hall is complete, doctors are stabilizing the state of patients and continue working with those whose state is estimated as the severest, Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said. "The main work on providing care to those admitted is complete," he said in an interview aired by the Rossiya-24 TV channel. TASS

Was promised reward of $5,400, says Moscow attack suspect

Moscow: A man detained on suspicion of involvement in the Crocus City Hall attack has said he was promised a reward of 500,000 rubles ($5,400), according to a video posted on RT Editor-in-Chief Margarita Simonyan's Telegram channel. "I shot down people at the Crocus for money; [I was promised] about 500,000," he said. The detainee added that half the money had been transferred to his card. TASS

Former PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan dies

PAKISTAN

FORMER PAKISTAN Cricket Board (PCB) chairman and cousin of former Indian cricket team captain Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, Shaharyar Khan, died at the age of 89 after battling a prolonged illness on Saturday. The Bhopal-born Pakistan diplomat was crucial in restoring cricket ties with India in the early 2000s. He served as Pakistan foreign secretary between 1990-94 and also as a High Commissioner in New Delhi and the UK.

Shaharyar headed the PCB from 2003 to 2006, a period when India toured Pakistan twice, and from 2014 to 2017. He also worked as Pakistan team manager during the 1999 tour of India and the 2003 Cricket World Cup. He belonged to the royal family of Bhopal.He has written several books on his experiences in foreign relations and cricket, During Pakistan cricket team's 1999 tour of India and the 2003 Cricket World Cup, he worked as Pakistan team manager. Despite belonging to Bhopal's royal family of Nawabs, Shaharyar Khan chose to live in Pakistan after partition.

In 2013, Shaharyar M Khan, met the then Indian PM Manmohan Singh as the special envoy of Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif, and conveyed Pakistan's desire to move ahead on peace talks with India.

Soyuz rocket with 3-men crew blasts off to ISS

MOSCOW

A RUSSIAN Soyuz rocket carrying three astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) blasted off Saturday, two days after its launch was aborted at the last minute. The spacecraft carrying NASA astronaut Tracy Dyson, Russian Oleg Novitsky and Marina Vasilevskaya of Belarus launched smoothly from the Russian-leased Baikonur launch facility in Kazakhstan.

The launch had been planned for Thursday but was halted by an automatic safety system about 20 seconds before the scheduled liftoff. The head of the Russian space agency, Yuri Borisov, said the launch abort was triggered by a voltage drop in a power source.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **SMT.SUBHADRA.C W/o.Subramani** is the owner of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and she has lost original Sale Deed dated 26/7/2001 bearing Document No.4768/2001-02, Book-1, Volume 2083 at pages of 169-175, executed by Smt.Anjanamma W/o late Sri.Krishnappa in favour of Sri.Augastine S/o late Sri.D.Peter registered in the office of Sub-registrar, K.R.Puram, Bangalore, pertaining to the schedule property: in case anybody having any claims or in possession of the said document, shall inform the under singed and handover the same within SEVEN DAYS from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing SITE NO. 122, KHATHA NO. 122, situated at Bileshivale Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North To South 30 Feet comes under the limits of BBMP and bounded on: **East by :** Smt. Radhamma; property, **West by :** Sri.Rajappa's Property, **North by :** Smt.Narasamma's Property, **South by :** Road.

N. JAGADEESH KUMAR, Advocate,
No.30/1, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross, Near NR Colony Bus Stand, Opp. Hotel Dwaraka, Bangalore-560019. Cell # 9341261700

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients intend to purchase from Mr. Manoj. C, the lawful owner of the Residential Property, morefully described in Schedule hereunder and hereafter termed as "Schedule Property". General public is hereby informed that any person/s having any right, title and interest or making any claim in the Schedule Property may send their objections in writing with documentary proof to undersigned **within Ten (10) Days** from the date of this publication. If no claim or objection is received within the stipulated time, it shall be presumed that no one is having any right, title, claim or interest over the schedule property and our clients will proceed with completion of the sale of the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that part of the Site No.334, New No.20, situated at KHB 1st Stage, LIG 6th Main, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore, measuring East to West 50 Feet and North to South 29 Feet, totally measuring 1450 Square Feet of land area with building comprising of ground, first and second floor, measuring 1400 Square Feet, within the limits of Kamakshipalya Ward No.101 and having BBMP PID No.18-25-20, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by :	KHB Property.
West by :	Road.
North by:	Property No.335.
South by:	Property No.333

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7, I Floor, Yamunabai Road, Madhavanagar Bangalore - 560001. Mobile No.: 91135 97368.

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SEALED tenders are invited in the prescribed form for the purchase of various categories of Newsprint Wastes viz., Reel End Waste, Cut Waste, Empty Core, White Waste, Print Waste, Jelly and Side Disc Wrapper as detailed in the tender form for the quarter **Apr'2024 to Jun' 2024.**

The tender forms (non-transferable) can be obtained from the Manager of the Branch at : **NO. 1, QUEEN'S ROAD, BENGALURU-560001** on payment of Rs.25/- payable through Demand Draft favoring EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS (MADURAI) PRIVATE LTD. or by Cash to be paid at Cash Counter at Branch Offices. Last date for receipt of sealed tender in our office is **31.03.24** till **6.00 p.m.** The tenders received after the due date and time will not be entertained.

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CORRIGENDUM
Public Notice for Sale of Immovable Property (Sale Through E-Auction Only)

Advertisement dated **12-03-2024**, the date of E-Auction for properties mentioned under Sl 03,06 & 07 to be treated as **May 03, 2024.** All other terms and conditions mentioned in advertisement remains unaltered.

Date: 24.03.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **IDBI Bank Limited**

BEFORE THE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION., KASARAGOD
C.C. No. 362/2023

Between:
Vikas Kizhakke Veedu
.....Complainant
And
Managing Director.
Intellipaat, Ground Floor,
INDIQUBE Building, AMR Tech Park
Bommanahalli, Bangalore,
Karnataka-560068
....Opposite Party No.3

NOTICE

The above case is posted to 4-4-2024 for your appearance after ordering process on affixture and paper publication. If you are not present in person or through any agent at 11:00 AM, the above case will be disposed on the day in your absence.

By order of the court CORC Kasaragod

Hosdurg 22.03.2024 Sd/-
Vikas Kizhakke Veedu (Complainant)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public / whomsoever it may concern that both my clients **Smt. Sushmitha K** W/o Kalyan Kumar B T and Kalyan Kumar B T S/o thippeswamy B K resident of Bangalore intend/ propose to purchase the self acquired schedule property belonging to Sri. Srinivasa rao R. Arjunagi S/o Rangarao Residing at Bangalore. They represent that they are the absolute owner/ self acquired and having clear and marketable title to the schedule property any persons,minors, firm, financial institutions claiming to have any right title interest or claims are enforceable right in the schedule property either as the owner or in any other manner of objection for such alienation may lodge their objections with documentary proof **withing 15 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims and objections subsists and thereafter my client shall procced to complete the sale transaction with owner referred above.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the property situated at No 16, out of municipality katha no 72/1 situated at valagerehali village, vaddarapalya, kengeri hcbli, Bengaluru south taluk, Bengaluru allotted by Karnataka minorities building owners society Bangalore 560026 Khaata/PID: 22-1-16, total extent of 1320 Sqft east to west 40ft North to south 33ft **East by:** road **West by:** private property **North by:** Site no 15 **South by:** Site no 17

R & R associates
Ravish Advocate
No. 39/2, 1st B cross, 3rd main, 5th block bsk 3rd stage, Bangalore-85
mail:rrlegal2012@gmail.com
mob No.90194263880

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its Owners: **Sri.B.R.PRAKASH** S/o Late B.Rama Rao and his wife **Smt.GEETHA PRAKASH,** residing at No.1, 1st Main Road, NR Colony, Bangalore-560019.

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal No.1 (CITB/BDA Site No.650), PID No.60-106-1, measuring East to West (42 +80.2) ft and North to South 30 ft, with a building thereon, situated at 10th D Main Road, Jayanagara 4th Block, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : 11th Main Road
West by : 10th 'D' Main Road
North by : 30th Cross Road
South by : Site No.649

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

बनारस रेल इंजन कारखाना, वाराणसी–221004

बिड संख्या : ई–118/2023–24 **ई–निविदायें** दिनांक : 18.03.2024

भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए एवं उनकी ओर से निम्नलिखित वस्तुओं का आपूर्ति हेतु ई–निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। केवल ई–प्रस्ताव ही स्वीकार्य है, जिसके लिए वेन्डर का क्लास-III का डिजीटल सिग्नेचर एवं (IREPS) पर पंजीकरण आवश्यक है निविदाओं का विवरण निम्न क्रम से है– क्र.सं., निविदा संख्या, (खुलने की तिथि), विवरण और मात्रा। 1. 05231259 (09.04.2024), मेटल ए आर सी वेल्डिंग, पार्ट नं. 76019226, 8750 अदद, 2. 05231272A (12.04.2024), एम.एस. शीट, पार्ट नं. 90525279, 13 एमटी, 3. 05231237B (15.04.2024), डिजिटल डिस्प्ले क्लंप मिटर, पार्ट नं. 72902371, 25 अदद, 4. 05245042 (15.04.2024), ड्राइव रोल, 15 सेट, 5. 05245002 (12.04.2024), एक्सटैन्शन बार, 06 अदद, 6. 05231241 (16.04.2024), हैवि ड्यूटी, पार्ट नं. 72902954, 02 अदद, 7. 05231253 (17.04.2024), डबल स्टेज ब्रास, पार्ट नं. 76218790, 93 अदद, 8. 05231180A (17.04.2024), लाइट वेट फाइबर, पार्ट नं. 70237426, 1020 अदद, 9. 05231245 (23.04.2024), सिंगल एनकेड ऑपेन, पार्ट नं. 72053690, 03 सेट, 10. 10231036E (19.04.2024), (डेवलोपमेंटल टेन्डर) बेयरिंग, टू पार्ट नं. 16150430, 90 अदद, 11. 10231458C (23.04.2024), (डेवलोपमेंटल टेन्डर) किट गासकेट (लयूब आयल) टू पार्ट नं. 16171380, 10 अदद, 12. 10231038B (26.04.2024), (डेवलोपमेंटल टेन्डर) जम्पर असेंबली टू पार्ट नं. 16060568, 100 अदद, 13. 10231251A (15.04.2024), रोलर टू पार्ट नं. 16210074, 10966 अदद, 14. 10231876A (11.04.2024), गवर्नर ड्राइव हाउज़िंग एएसएम टू पार्ट नं. 16050393, 15 अदद, 15. 09231094D (10.04.2024), स्कॉच ब्रेंजर – कॉशन ट्यूब के लिए डेवलोपमेंटल निविदा, पार्ट नं. 29610904, 12.50 सेट्स, 16. 09231106D (12.04.2024), एक्स. इंसुलेटेड ट्यूब के लिए डेवलोपमेंटल निविदा, पार्ट नं. 29720448, 1124.60 मीटर, 17. 09231081D (12.04.2024), केबल ग्लैंड PG MS NI के लिए डेवलोपमेंटल निविदा, पार्ट नं. 29611568, 120 अदद, 18. 09231309B (15.04.2024), कंटेक्टर AC 2 पोल GF के लिए डेवलोपमेंटल निविदा, पार्ट नं. 18140063, 08 अदद, 19. 09231101D (15.04.2024), एक्स. इंसुलेटेड ट्यूब 8/15 PA के लिए डेवलोपमेंटल निविदा, पार्ट नं. 29720450, 6800 मीटर, 20. 09231275D (15.04.2024), मल्टीपल बेस 3 CA टाइज (टाईप 1) के लिए डेवलोपमेंटल निविदा, पार्ट नं. 29611842, 60 अदद, 21. 09231103D (15.04.2024), एक्स. इंसुलेटेड ट्यूब 14/20 PA के लिए डेवलोपमेंटल निविदा, पार्ट नं. 29720497, 500 मीटर, 22. 09231104D (15.04.2024), एक्स. इंसुलेटेड ट्यूब 22/35 PA के लिए डेवलोपमेंटल निविदा, पार्ट नं. 29720503, 6432.40 मीटर, 23. 09231105D (15.04.2024), एक्स. इंसुलेटेड ट्यूब 28/40 के लिए डेवलोपमेंटल निविदा, पार्ट नं. 29720515, 1424.2 मीटर, 24. 02232069 (23.04.2024), कीट–04 (16 सिलिन्डर) कीट फॉर कैप स्क्रू, पार्ट नं. 10272835, 8 सेट। उक्त निविदाओं का विस्तृत विवरण **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** और **www.ireps.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है। शुद्धि पत्र : 25. बिड सं.: ई–106/2023–24, विश्वजननी निविदा सं.: 09221355D, रिविजन–01, वर्तमान खुलने की तिथि : 20.03.2024, संशोधित खुलने की तिथि : 12.04.2024। नोट: उपरोक्त सभी निविदाओं की अन्य शर्तें अपरिवर्तित रहेंगी।

पी.आर/बरेका/एस–127 प्रमुख मुख्य सामग्री प्रबंधक

/blwvaranasi "Website : http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया भारत सरकार का उपक्रम | **Union Bank of India** A Government of India Undertaking

Regional Office: 2254, "Koushalya", 3rd Floor, South Wing, Vinoba Road, Mysore - 570 005

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties charged/mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/ Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Union Bank of India** (Secured Creditor), will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** on date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s)& Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

Union Bank Of India, Mandya - Bommanayakanahalli Branch, Bevoor Post, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara Dist. - 562108

Name & Address of the Borrowers & Guarantor/s	Amount due Rs.
1. Mr. Nagegowda C S/o Channaiah, Thoreshettahalli Village & Post, Athagur Hobli, Maddur to Mandya **2. Mrs. Sowmya A R** W/o Venkatesh A R, Abbur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna.	Rs. 38,86,328/-

All the Part and Parcel of Vacant Site in the Name of Sowmya A R. Property Bearing Katha No 1914/412(old) Assessment No. 2721/412 and Property No. 3-2-527-378 Bearing N. 378, 18th Cross, Block No 2, Ward No.3, M G Layout Channapatna Town, Ramanagara. Measuring East – West: 30 Ft, North – South: 40ft. Total 1200sqft. **Bounded By**: The East: Site No 411, West: 9th Cross Road, North: Site No 413, South: 2nd Main Road.

Date & Time of E-Auction: on 16/04/2024 @ 12.00 Noon to 05.00PM. Reserve Price: 18,70,000/-. Earnest money to be deposited: Rs. 1,87,000/-.

For detailed terms and condition of the sale and registration and login and bidding rules visit: please refer to the link provided https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp, https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in//english/TendelViewAllAuction.aspx

Date: 22-03-2024 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place: Mysore **Union Bank of India**

WESTERN RAILWAY

DEVELOPMENT OF CLOUD BASED DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Sr.DEE/P/BCT invites **Tender Notice No.: EL 81/863/WA/121 Dt. 22/03/2024 (Two Packet System).** Work and Location: **Western Railway : Development of Cloud-based Data Management System for Integration of Electrical Assests with IR-NIYANTRAC led by CRIS.** Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ **13,46,80,556/-.** Cost of Bid Security: ₹ **8,23,400/-.** Date and Time of Submission: **Till 15/04/2024, 15.00 hrs.** Date and Time of Opening: **On 15/04/2024 at 15.30 hrs. Note:** Please visit our website **www.ireps.gov.in** to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. 1304

Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **SMT.GEETHA.K.R** is the owner of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and she has lost original HAKKU PATHRA dated 01/01/1979 issued by the Government of Karnataka vide order No.DPC 15 DRH duly signed by Block Development Officer, Bangalore South Taluk, in favour of Sri.K.N.Basavaraju S/o.Late.Kanakappa, pertaining to the schedule property: In case anybody having any claims or in possession of the said document, shall inform the under singed and handover the same within SEVEN DAYS from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.123, Khatha No.126, V.P Khatha No.126 situated at Kaniminike Janatha Colony Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring east to west 30 feet and north to south 40 feet, totally measuring 1200 Square feet, now comes under the limits of Kumbalgodu Village Panchayath and bounded on: **East by :** Property No.124, **West by :** Property No.122, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Property No.137.

N. JAGADEESH KUMAR, Advocate,
No.30/1, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross, Near NR Colony Bus Stand, Opp. Hotel Dwaraka, Bangalore-560019. Cell # 9341261700

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients have intends to purchase Agricultural land measuring 1 acre 38 guntas in Sy.No.130 of Kesthur village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District which is more fully described in the schedule herein below from Narayanappa S/o Late Nanjundappa @ Nanjemariyappa and others residing at Kesthur village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. Any person/s having any right/claim of any nature over the schedule property or any portion thereof in any manner may lodge his/her/their claim/objection in writing to the undersigned **within 7 days** hereof along with copies of all the documents being relied upon, as otherwise my clients will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/objections from any person/s.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Agricultural land measuring 1 acre 38 guntas in Sy.No.130 of Kesthur village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the: **East by:** Government Road, **West by:** Land in Sy.No.171, **North by:** Government Road, **South by :** Land in Sy.No.167.

K. SOMASEKHAR REDDY, Advocate
Address: No.1, 1st Floor, M.C. Plaza, 1st Main Road, 1st Cross, Ganganagar, Bangalore-560 032. Mob: 9448381245
Date: 23-03-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the property being vacant land bearing site No.58, katha No.84, Assessment No.84/10, Srigandadakaval Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore East to West 40 feet, North to South 30 feet, total measuring 1,200 sq feet belonging to Mr. Sathyanarayana Gowda K.C. S/o K.N. Cheluvaiah, R/at No.76, 16th Cross, 2nd Main, 4th division, 4th stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079, and the said Mr. Sathyanarayana Gowda purchased under sale deed dated 19.10.2006, registered as Document No. BLN-1-46469-2006-07, CD No.BLND346, at the office of the Sub-register, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore. on 15.05.2012 my client was travelling from his office sunkadakate to Basaveshwaranagar by his vehicle unfortunately the above said original document have fell down from the vehicle and the same are not traceable, and also my client have lodge the complainant before the Kamakshipalya Police Station, Bangalore on dated 28.05.2012, if anybody is in possession of the said original document relating to the said property they are requested to hand over the same to the below address.

NAGARAJU, Advocate
NGR LAW ASSOCIATES
No.83, 14th Cross, Ashoknagar, BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560050.
Ph No.9901994341.
Email: naga.kmnr99@gmail.com.
Date: 22-03-20254

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has entered into an Agreement to purchase the Immovable Properties now known as and bearing Municipal Nos. 28 and 29, Old Nos. 277/A and 277/B situated at North Street, Neelasandra, Civil Station, Bangalore, fully described as Item No. I and Item No. II in the Schedule hereunder written from the heirs of its original owner late Abdul Khuddus son of Mahomed Hayath, held by them as joint owners, who had purchased the same under a registered sale deed dated 27-12-1957.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s having any claim or asserting any type of right over the Schedule Property may file his/her/their objections with documentary evidence with the undersigned **within 7 days** from the date of this publication, as otherwise my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction on the basis that there are no claims over the Schedule Property or objections to the proposed sale in any manner.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM No. I: ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the Immovable Property now known as and bearing New Municipal No. 28, Old No. 277/A, situated at North Street, Neelasandra, Civil Station, BBMP Ward No. 69, New Ward No. 115, PID No. 69-40-28, Bangalore, being bounded on the: **East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Property No. 29, Old No. 277/B, **North by:** North Street, **South by:** Road.

Measuring on the: **East:** 12.8016 Meters, **West:** 12.8016 Meters, **North:** 13.2588 Meters, **South:** 13.2588 Meters.

Totally measuring : 169.73 Square Meters

ITEM NO. II: ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the Immovable Property now known as and bearing New Municipal No. 29, Old No. 277/B, situated at North Street, Neelasandra, Civil Station, BBMP Ward No. 69, New Ward No. 115, PID No. 69-40-29, Bangalore, being bounded on the: **East by:** Property No. 28, Old No. 277/A, **West by :** Private Property, **North by:** North Street, **South by:** Road

Measuring on the: **East:** 12.8016 Meters, **West:** 12.8016 Meters, **North:** 10.0584 Meters, **South:** 10.0584 Meters.

Totally measuring : 128.76 Square Meters

MOHAMED MUKHTAR, Advocate
42, Veerapillai Street, Bengaluru-560 001. Mobile: 9845651907.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take Notice that, my client **ANANDA. G.,** S/o. Gururajachari, No. 22, 2nd Cross, Near RNS College, Dr. Vishnuvardhan Road, Channasandra, Bengaluru-560 098 **is intending to purchase** the Schedule Property from its joint owners **K. Sathyanandam,** S/o. Late Kuncham Radhakrishnaiah, **K. Rajendra Prasad,** S/o. Late Kuncham Radhakrishnaiah and **Ramesh K.,** S/o. Late Kuncham Radhakrishnaiah.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of vacant **Site No. 71,** BBMP Khatha Sl. No.11, property No. 85/71, **formed part of Survey No. 85,** Hosarakerehalli Gramatana, Dwarakanagar, Banashankari 3rd Stage, situated at **HOSAKEREHALLI VILLAGE,** Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru, now, the property comes under the Administrative Jurisdiction of Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru, measuring **East to West: 40-0 Feet or 12.19 Meters** and **North to South: 30-0 Feet or 9.14 Meters, in all Measuring 1200 Square Feet or 111.41 square Meters,** together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:

East by: Site No.56, **WEST BY:** Road, **North by:** Site No.70 & **South by:** Road.

In view of the above, my client hereby give a notice to the public at large and calls upon all or any person/s to who have any right title, interest in the "said property" prejudicial to the interest of the "other party" and claim, dispute, petition, appeal or other like proceedings or obtained any decree, award or other such orders concerning the subject matter of the "said property" or who intend to file any such proceedings as described above for enforcing their right in the "said property", to submit all their objections and claims in writing along with supportive documentary proofs thereof, to the undersigned ***within a period of 15 (Fifteen) Days*** of the date of publication of this notice, failing which my client will presume that no adverse claims or objections concerning the "said property" exist or if they do exit, that stand waived hereinafter.

Sd/-
B. Venkata Reddy, Advocate,
CA Site No.8, Chamber No.2, 18th Main, Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru – 560 070.
Mob: 9448323946 / 9743221221
kshamareddyadvocate@gmail.com
Date: 23.03.2024 Place: Bengaluru

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP

SALE OF USED ALUMINIUM CTP PLATES, EMPTY INK BARRELS AND EMPTY INK / CHEMICAL PLASTIC CONTAINERS

SEALED tenders are invited in the prescribed form for the purchase of **USED ALUMINIUM CTP PLATES, EMPTY INK BARRELS AND EMPTY INK / CHEMICAL PLASTIC CONTAINERS** as detailed in the tender form for the period from **01.04.2024 to 30.06.2024.**

The tender forms (non-transferable) can be obtained from the Centre Manager of the Branch at : **NO.1, QUEEN'S ROAD, BENGALURU -560001** on payment of Rs.25/- payable through Demand Draft favoring EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS (MADURAI) PRIVATE LTD., or by Cash to be paid at Cash Counter at Branch Offices.

Last date for receipt of sealed tender in our office is **30th March 2024 till 6.00 p.m.** The tenders received after the due date and time will not be entertained.

Deputy General Manager (Production),
Express Publications (Madurai) Private Ltd,
Express Gardens, 29,
II Main Road, Industrial Estate,
Ambattur, Chennai-600058.
Phone : 2345 7601 Extn. 310, 23457521 (Direct)

Chennai **Date : 24.03.2024.**

grooms

GROOM WANTED

Nair Illam girl 29, 157 cms, Chadayam, Thiruvananthapuram. Ph.D in Economics, Central Govt. Employee at New Delhi. Alliance invited from parents of suitable well placed boys.

Mob / WhatsApp:
94465 69227

IDBI BANK
CIN:L65190MH2004GOI148838
Mission Road Branch: Retail Recovery, 3rd Floor, No.58, IDBI House, Mission Road, Bengaluru-560027. Ph: 080-61451322/24/25/26. Email: recovery.bangalore@idbi.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (Sale Through E-Auction Only)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to **IDBI Bank Limited** (Secured Creditor), the constructive/Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of IDBI Bank Limited (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is on **08th April 2024,** for recovery of amount due to IDBI Bank Limited (Secured Creditor) for the below mentioned Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgagors.

Date and Time of Auction: 08th April 2024 from 10:00 AM to 12.00

Last date of online submission of Bid : 06th April 2024 before 04:00 PM.

EMD Payment to be made into IDBI A/c No: 00834915010026; IFSC CODE: IBKL0000008 with relevant Bid Documents to reach us on or before 06th April 2024 before 04:00 PM to IDBI Bank Limited, Retail Recovery, 3rd Floor, No.58, IDBI House, Mission Road, Bengaluru-560027.

Minimum Bid increment: Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only).

Name & Address of the Borrower : Mrs.Rashmi Puravankara & Mr Girish Puravanakara, Row House No. 27, LGCL Bamboo Forest, Sy No. 138/1 &139, Rayasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal, Bengaluru-560099 also at Villa No. 62-C, LGCL ASHLAR 52 Choodasandra, Kasavanahalli Main Road, Electronic City Post, Bengaluru-560099.

Demand Notice: 21-01-2023 **Possession Notice: 07-12-2023**

Outstanding Amount : Rs. 2,44,35,059/- (Rupees Two Crore Forty Four Lakh Thirty Five Thousand and Fifty Nine Only) as on 15-01-2024 together with further interest and charges thereon with effect from 15-01-2024. (less further payments , if any).

Property details : Schedule-A (Description of the entire property)All that piece and parcel of residentially converted lands bearing survey No. 138/1 (portion of old survey No.91), measuring 20 guntas and survey No.139 (old survey No.91), measuring 1 acre 20 guntas, now bearing Property No. 79/138/139 (as per Grama Panchayath Records), Property Unique No. 150200100500300085, issued by Shanthipura Grama Panchayath, Anekal Taluk, situated at Rayasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, measuring in total 2 acres converted for non-agricultural/industrial use, vide Official Memorandum dated 25-01-2010, in No.ALN(A)(S)SR:327/09-10, change of land use from industrial use to residential use vide Order dated 15-04-2010, in No.201/109-10/153/10-11, issued by the Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority, vide No.NA.MA/Aa.SA/Aa.Aa.3/54/2010-11, dated 28-09-2010, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East by: Government Road and remaining portion of Survey No.139. West by: Remaining portion of Survey No.138 belonging to Gowramma and Survey No.7 of Naganathapura Village belonging to Krishnareddy. North by: Gomal Lands and portion of survey No. 139. South by: Rayasandra Road Schedule -'B' (Description of the property hereby conveyed) Item No.1-All that piece and parcel of portion of the Schedule 'A' Property beneath the row house more fully mentioned and described in the Schedule 'C' here below and measuring in total 1208 square feet. Item No.2-All that piece and parcel of 3.06% undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property forming part of the club house, common area and facilities. Schedule -'C' (Description of the Row House being constructed on the Schedule 'B' Property) Row house bearing No.27 being constructed on the portion of the Schedule 'A' Property (demarked in the Annexed Plan) having a super built-up area of 2537 square feet, with marble flooring, including one half part between the external walls abutting the adjoining row houses and further a Terrace area of 442 square feet forming part of the project named as "LGCL Bamboo Forest", along with exclusive right to use and enjoy the open area in the front and rear of the row house measuring 57 square feet and 140 square feet respectively, along with one open car parking space and the row house bounded on the: East by: Road, West by: Row house No.23, North by: Row house No.26, South by: Row house No.28.

Reserve Price: Rs. 2,42,25,000/- **EMD: Rs. 24,22,500/-**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer **Website of IDBI Bank Ltd i.e. https://www.idbibank.in/e-auction.asp** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved **service provider M/s. 4 Closure** at the web portals (www.foreclosureindia.com & www.bankauctions.in). E-Auction Tender Document containing online E-Auction bid cum declaration form, Price Confirmation Letter, Detailed Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in website (www.foreclosureindia.com & www.bankauctions.in) or for any other assistance email to info@bankauctions.in, Contact No's:+91-8142000061/62/64. **Banks Contact Numbers:- 1. Praveen Kumar M 080-61451322/24 (2) Vithal Koteswara Rao 080-45359607. Email Id: recovery.bangalore@idbi.co.in.** If the bid placed in the last 5 minutes before the closing of E-auction the bidding time will get auto extended by 5 minutes.

The Authorised Officer has absolute right to accept or reject the tender or bid, any or all the offers and has right to cancel or adjourn or postpone the auction without assigning any reason and also to modify any terms and conditions of this sale, without any prior notice.

The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Place: Bengaluru. **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date: 24-03-2024 **IDBI Bank Limited**

6.6 L new National Pension System (NPS) subscribers were added in April-December 2023, an increase of 17% year-on-year

Poll bonds: Reg parties prove heft

PARTY FUNDING

DONATION TO REGIONAL PARTIES ROSE SIGNIFICANTLY AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF ELECTORAL BONDS IN 2019

Total income (in ₹cr) before 2019

Year	BJP	Cong	TMC	DMK	BRS	YSRC
2018	1,027	199	5.16	36	27	14
2017	1,034	225	6.4	3.8	3.8	0.94
2016	571	261	34.6	78	8.9	1.91
2015	1,689	593	12.32	20	25	7.4
2014	1,071	598	12.45	88	N/A	14.4

Total income (in ₹cr) after 2019

2023	2,361	452	333	214	737	75
2022	1,917	541	545	318	218	94
2021	752	285	74	150	37	108
2020	3,623	682	145	65	130	93
2019	2,410	918	193	26	189	181

Electoral bond donations (in ₹cr)

2023	1,294	171	327	185	529	52
2022	1,034	236	528	306	153	60
2021	22	10	42	95	Nil	96.25
2020	2,555	318	100	45.50	89	74.35
2019	1,451	383	97	Nil	141.5	100

Source: Election Commission of India

TNIE analysis of 2 national, 4 regional parties shows a considerable rise in their respective annual incomes, thanks to electoral bonds

SUNITHA NATTI

THE controversial electoral bonds has immensely benefitted not just the ruling national party BJP, but also significantly helped regional parties.

A TNIE analysis of the past 10 years' financial statements of two national and four regional parties shows a considerable increase in their respective annual incomes, thanks to generous corporate donations. Importantly, regional parties' organic funding shot up beyond belief during the 4-5 year period when electoral bonds were in existence.

If the regional parties namely All India Trinamool Congress (TMC), Bharat Rashtriya Samithi (BRS), Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRC) and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) annual incomes barely exceeded ₹15 crore respectively for each party during the five years stretching from 2014 to 2018, they shot up soon after electoral bonds came into the funding landscape. Between 2019 and 2023, each of these parties' annual incomes crossed past ₹100 crore every year with a few exceptions.

If TMC's cumulative income during 2014-2018 stood at ₹71 crore, over the next five year period, its income shot up to ₹1,290 crore, of which 85% came via electoral bonds, according to the annual audit statements furnished with the Election Commission of India. Likewise, for DMK, if its cumulative income which didn't even touch ₹100 crore between 2014 and 2018, rose to an eye-popping ₹773 crore during 2019-2023. Of this, ₹631.5 crore, or 82%, trickled in via electoral bonds.

Ditto with BRS, which saw a staggering increase in both its total income and bond donations. If its cumulative income stood under Rs 100 crore during the 2014-2018 period, it shot up to ₹1,311 crore over the next five year period. Predictably, a whopping 70%, or Rs 912.5 crore, came through individual and corporate bond donations.

Lastly, the YSRC party, whose income was among the lowest at ₹39 crore during the 2014-2018 period, saw a dramatic increase in its income at ₹551 crore over the next five years. Of this, about ₹383 crore, or 70% was from electoral bonds. As for national parties, BJP received the juiciest bone with ₹6,356 crore through electoral bonds alone between 2019 and 2023. Such bond donations accounted for 57% of the party's cumulative income during the period. However, for the opposition Indian National Congress, bond donations weren't as attractive having contributed just about 39% to its overall income during the five year period of 2019-2023.

With electoral bonds now ground into dust, it remains to be seen if corporate donations for parties will take a beating, particularly for regional parties.

NEWSCOPE

RISING INEQUALITY: HIGH TIME FOR A 'SUPER RICH' TAX?

GURBIR SINGH

IT'S a strange paradox. There is general appreciation that poverty is on the decline. It is driven by robust development spending by the government, and a marked trickle-down effect. On the other hand, inequality has risen sharply with recent studies suggesting that with 1% of the richest Indians owning 40% of the wealth, India is more 'unequal' than even Brazil, South Africa and the U.S.

In its recent release, the country's official planning body, the Niti Aayog said 'multidimensional' poverty had fallen to 11.3% from over 29% a decade ago. In absolute numbers, it estimated that 248 million people had 'escaped' poverty over the last 9 years. 'Multidimensional poverty' is a new local standard based on a spectrum of indicators categorized under health, education and living standards.

The World Bank has a different 'consumption' standard for assessing poverty levels, a more acceptable currency among economists. However, the international lender too conceded: "Between 2011 and 2019, the country is estimated to have halved the share of the population living in extreme poverty –with an income of below $2.15 (about ₹180) per person per day." In 2021, about 11.9% (higher than the Niti Aayog figure) lived below the poverty line – lower than the pandemic high of 14.7% in 2020, but still marginally higher than in 2018.

Class divide worsens

Logically, inequality in both wealth and income should have proportionately gone down. Unfortunately, it has moved the other way. The widely publicized study from the Paris-based World Inequality Lab, authored by 4 highly respected economists – 'Income and Wealth Inequality in India – The Rise of the Billionaire Raj' – has posited that during 2014-15 to 2022-23, inequality in both wealth and income reached their historical highs. The richest top 1% of the population controlled 40.1% of the national wealth in 2022-23, the highest level since 1961.

The story is the same on income distribution. "Our results point to extreme levels of inequality in India compared to international standards. In 2022-23, 22.6% of national income went to just the top 1%, the highest level recorded in our series since 1922, higher than even during the inter-war colonial period...In other words, the 'Billionaire Raj' headed by India's modern bourgeoisie is now more unequal than the British Raj headed by the colonialist forces," says the report.

It added a warning: "It is unclear how long such inequality levels can sustain without major social and political upheaval." While there is a universal consensus on poverty – a curse that has to be removed – it is not the same for inequality. In an intensely stratified society

with its layers of caste and religious groupings, inequality is institutionalized in India. There is a deep belief that people are positioned high or low on the income ladder because it is ordained; it is part of karma, and that is how society functions.

How does one otherwise explain the lack of mass revulsion at the recent, obscene splurge of wealth at a pre-marriage ceremony at Jamnagar for Ambani scion, Anant Ambani, and Radhika Merchant. Instead, it became a celebration of the world's rich and famous from Ivanka Trump to Bill Gates and Marck Zuckerberg; and for entertainment, singer Rihanna performed.

Or, for that matter, in 2004, when about 40% of India was below the poverty line, Saharashri Subroto Roy celebrated a double wedding for his sons Sushanto and Seemanto splurging Rs 550 crore with 11,000 guests in attendance.

Except for a few diehard left and liberal critics, these eventsare acclaimed and broadcast as shows of power and style. Culturally, there is not an eyebrow raised at the huge class divide. There is no resentmentagainst pomp and wealth; instead those who don't make it to the guest list celebratewith photographs and gossip. The ways of the rich and famous have aspirational value.

Distributive justice

But discontent there is and the demand for distributive justice is building up. Taxation is the common formula through which wealth concentrated in a few hands can be channeled for narrowing class chasms. We live in times where 'tax' is a bad word and 25-30% income / corporate tax still churns up resentment. We have forgotten the Nehruvian era where income tax for the top bracket touched 97%!

The wheel has turned a full circle and the debate for slowing inequality through better policy and a new tax code is again building. The World Inequality Lab says the Indian tax system is regressive and that we should consider a 'super tax' of 2% on net wealth of the 167 wealthiest families in 2022-23. This "would yield 0.5% of national income in revenues and create valuable fiscal space to facilitate such investments," the report says.

It points to wider concerns, which we should take heed of. "One reason to be concerned with such high levels of inequality is that extreme concentration of incomes and wealth is likely to facilitate disproportionate influence on society and government....the integrity of various key institutions in India appears to have been compromised in recent years. This makes the possibility of India's slide towards plutocracy even more real..."If only for this reason, income and wealth inequality in India must be closely tracked and challenged."

JSW acquires 45 MW green energy capacity from RPower

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

JSW Renewable Energy (Coated) Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of JSW Neo Energy Limited, has agreed to acquire 45 MW of renewable energy generation capacity from Reliance Power Limited (RPower).

The capacity consists of a wind power project located in Jath, Sangli District, Maharashtra. The company said the transaction values the project at ₹132 crore, adjusted for net working capital.

"A business transfer agreement has been signed by both parties," the company said in the statement. "The transaction is subject to customary approvals standard for a transaction of this size."

JSW Energy is a leading power producer in India and part of the $23 billion JSW Group, which has a significant presence in various sectors, including steel, energy, infrastructure, cement, and sports.

JSW Energy has a total locked-in generation capacity of 12.5 GW, comprising 7.2 GW of operational capacity, 2.6 GW under construction (across wind, thermal, and hydro), and Letters of Award/ Intents for 2.7 GW capacity from SECI (Solar Tranche XIII and Wind Tranche XVI), SJVN, and GUVNL.JSW Energy aims to reach 20 GW of generation capacity and 40 GWh of energy storage capacity by 2030. The company has also set an ambitious target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Last year, JSW Energy made its largest acquisition to date, purchasing several solar and wind energy assets from Mytrah Energy's Ravi Kailas for ₹10,531 crore.

Bharti Hexacom public issue to open on April 3; to offload 15% of company's share

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

BHARTI HEXACOM, a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel, announced that its initial public offering (IPO) will be open to the public from April 3 to April 5, 2024. Anchor investors can bid a day earlier, on April 2.

The company is issuing the IPO to enable existing shareholder TCIL to sell some of its shares. "The IPO will be open for subscription on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 (bid/offer opening date) and closes on Friday, April 5, 2024 (bid/offer closing date). Anchor investor bidding will be open one day prior to the bid/offer opening date, on April 2, 2024," the company said in a press note.

Bharti Hexacom, founded in 1995, is a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel. The company provides telecommunication services, mainly focused in Rajasthan and North East India, where it holds a strong position in mobile phone services. They also offer fixed line and broadband services in Rajasthan.

This upcoming IPO aims to sell 15% of Bharti Hexacom's equity, totaling 7.5 crore shares with a face value of Rs 5 each. Currently, Bharti Airtel holds a 70% stake in the company, with the remaining 30% owned by the Government of India through TCIL.

Airtel is India's second largest telco with its global presence, serving over 500 million users across 17 countries in South Asia and Africa. The company has seen significant financial growth, with a 53.77% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹2,442.2 crore in Q3 FY24 as against the previous year's Q3.

India reaches 1 bn tonne coal, lignite output target

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

INDIA'S coal sector achieved its target of producing 1 billion tonne of coal and lignite in fiscal year 2023-24, according to coal minister Pralhad Joshi.

It had set a goal of over 1 billion tonne for the 2023-24 fiscal year, which it achieved a week before the year-end(FY24). However, demand is still projected to be about 1,196.6 million tonne (MT) this fiscal year. In FY 2022-23, the country's coal and lignite production reached 937.22 MT. "PM Narendra Modi ji is leading India's coal mining sector to unprecedented growth," Joshi said in a tweet. "PM Modi ji's vision has brought everyone together to achieve 1 billion tonne production of coal+lignite. With this, we have unlocked a major milestone for the coal mining sector, thereby assuring energy security to the nation."

The country boasts a substantial coal stockpile, with about 96 MT available with coal companies. Additionally, domestic coal-based thermal power plants maintain coal stocks of 46.25 MT as of March 20, 2024.

As electricity demand is expected to double by 2030, and coal remains a major source of energy, accounting for 55% of India's needs, the government is committed to increasing its production. A plan to achieve 1 billion tonne (BT) coal output by 2023-24 and for Coal India to reach 1 BT by 2024-25 has already been prepared. All India production reached 778.21 MT in 2021-22 and rose to 893.19 MT in 2022-23, reflecting a positive growth of 14.77%.

As per coal ministry data, the government is making strides to reduce coal imports. This fiscal year, imports reached 200.23 MT, compared to 237.67 MT last year. The country mainly imports coking coal for the steel sector to bridge the gap between domestic availability and meet quality requirements. Other sectors, such as power, cement, and coal traders, import non-coking coal. The ministry, in a statement, said achieving 1 BT in coal and lignite production will ensure homes remain lit even as the coal sector continues to power the economy.

Samsung to consolidate leadership in mid-premium segment

Bhubaneswar: Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, announced the launch of Galaxy A55 5G and Galaxy A35 5G with awesome innovations.The new A series devices have multiple flagship-like features including Gorilla Glass Victus+ protection, camera features enhanced by AI, and a tamper-resistant security solution, the Samsung Knox Vault, among many other new features. "Galaxy A series has been the highest-selling smartphone series in India for the last two years, showcasing its popularity among India's MZ consumers. The launch of Galaxy A55 5G & A35 5G reinforces our commitment to make flagship-like innovations accessible to all. Galaxy A55 5G & A35 5G will help us consolidate our leadership in 5G smartphone segment and the fastest-growing mid-premium (₹30,000-₹50,000) segment in the country," said Rishi Kulshrestha, director, MX Business, Samsung India.

Business & Beyond

Town hall meeting on MSMEs organized by Reserve Bank of India, Bhubaneswar

With an objective to reaching out to MSE entrepreneurs & create awareness of banking facilities, a Town Hall Meeting on MSME related issues was organized by Reserve Bank of India, Bhubaneswar on March 19, 2024 at NOCCI Business Park in Balasore district. The meeting was chaired by Dr. S.P. Mohanty, Regional Director, RBIBubaneswar and attended by Shri D. Prasanth Kumar Reddy, IAS, Director of Industries, Odisha, Shri Goutam Patra, GM-Cum-Convenor, SLBC, Shri Pradyumna Kumar Choudhary, DGM, SIDBI, DGM, SBI and DGM, Bank of India.More than 170 participants from MSME associations i.e., BCIC, NOCCI and other entrepreneurs from Balasoredistrict.

Vedanta organized initiative named 'Suraksha Sarathi' at Lakhanpur Mines in Jharsuguda

In a significant endeavor to enhance road safety awareness, Vedanta Aluminium, India's premier aluminium producer, organized a colossal initiative named 'Suraksha Sarathi' at Lakhanpur Mines in Jharsuguda. Partnering with Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) and major transporters' unions such as Maa Samleswari Truck Owner Association (MSTOA) and Ayush Road Lines, the event engaged over 1,500 drivers, acknowledging their pivotal role as 'Sarathis' (Charioteers) in road safety. The initiative featured diverse activities including a captivating 'Nukkad Natak' (street play) performance, health check-ups, a road safety quiz, and the distribution of road safety kits, all aimed at emphasizing the criticality of adhering to traffic regulations and safety standards.

Leading lights collaborate in the automotive industry

Atul Auto, a leading Indian manufacturer of 3-wheeled commercial vehicles have signed a partnership agreement with Veedol, one of India's foremost lubricants brands for the supply of Genuine Oils. Veedol's proven expertise in lubricants is poised to provide Atul Auto customers enhanced vehicle performance . Commenting on the collaboration, Mr Niraj Chandra, Managing Director - Atul Auto Limited said "We are excited to partner with Veedol, known for quality, innovation and service. This collaboration allows us to provide customers with top-notch lubrication solutions." Mr Arijit Basu, Managing Director - Tide Water Oil added " This partnership with Atul Auto is an important milestone in our growth journey. Tide Water Oil, through its flagship brand Veedol and the joint venture company with Eneos, Japan, has been a significant contributor to Automotive industry with its major OEM partnerships. That we have partnered with a prominent commercial vehicle manufacturer like Atul Auto is a testament to our stature as leader in the lubricant industry." Tracing its origins back to the 1970's as the inventor of 'Chakada', the iconic vehicle that changed the face of transportation in rural Saurashtra, Atul Auto is today a significant player in 3 wheeler commercial vehicles with a wide presence across India, riding on a journey of growth, innovation and adaptation to changing market dynamics.

Chhetri set for 150th int'l cap on Tuesday

Indian talisman Sunil Chhetri is set to appear in his 150th international match in the World Cup qualifier against Afghanistan in Guwahati on Tuesday. India played out a goalless draw against Afghanistan in their away leg contest. Chhetri will become the 40th player ever to play 150 or more international matches in the list led by Cristiano Ronaldo.

Russell lights up Knight sky in style

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

ANDRE Russell kicked off his Indian Premier League 2024 season with 64 runs off 25 balls to help the Kolkata Knight Riders reach 208 against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Eden Gardens. In reply, despite Heinrich Klaasen (63) and Shahbaz Nadeem's (16) late blitz, SRH fell short by four runs. Harshit Rana dismissed both, defending 13 runs, in the last over.

Under new captain, Pat Cummins, Hyderabad opted to field first and started well with three wickets inside four overs. T Natarajan was the destroyer-in-chief with wickets of Venkatesh and Shreyas Iyer. Opener Salt held one side and went after Marco Jansen, but he didn't get any help from the other end till Ramandeep walked in. Kolkata were 119 for six when Russell walked in to bat. He went to work straight away when he smashed three sixes in Markande's final over of the day. Bhuvneshwar Kumar got the taste of the West Indies flair as well. Russell and Rinku Singh helped add 131 runs in the 10 overs to take Kolkata to 208 in the first innings.

Abhishek Sharma and Mayank Agarwal gave Hyderabad a flying start with a partnership of 50 runs but Harshit dismissed Agarwal and Russell came back to end Sharma's knock. South African Aiden Markram and Rahul Tripathi tried to rebuild but spin duo of Varun Chakravarthy and Varun Chakravarthy broke their resistance with two wickets.

Brief scores: KKR 208/7 in 20 ovs (Russell 64 n.o, Salt 54; Natarajan 3/32) bt SRH 204/7 in 20 ovs (Klaasen 63, Rana 3/33).

Rishabh makes his presence felt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

WHEN Punjab Kings' Harshal Patel dismissed David Warner in the eighth over, the Mullanpur Stadium was on its feet. Even as they were feeling the afternoon heat, the crowd at the venue was bringing down the non-existent roof. The cheer was not for the wicket, but for the next batter who walked in — Rishabh Pant. The Delhi Capitals captain walked out to bat for the first time in a competitive match since suffering a life-threatening car accident in December 2022. All eyes were on how he walks, moves, bats and keeps wickets on Saturday.

Rishabh Pant scored a 13-ball 18 on his comeback on Saturday | SPORTZPICS

It did not take long to know that Pant was at home. His first shot was on-the-knee cut through point, a very unorthodox position, but typical of Pant. His innings would live only 13 balls, but he showed glimpses of the past. The one-handed slogs, the working around of spinners, standing tall and cutting close to the body, he showed it all in the 18 runs he scored.

The other concern was how he moves as a keeper and the general vibe and constant chatter behind the wickets. Pant seemed fitter than ever, and did not seem like he was in any sort of trouble keeping. Defending the team's total of 174/9, DC were not having it easy. During the second innings, Pant could be heard in the stump mic telling Kuldeep in his typical way, "*Dalte re, Tu hi hai, Milegha* (keep bowling, you will get the wicket). And shortly after, Kuldeep got the wicket of Prabhsimran Singh. **Brief scores:** DC 174/9 in 20 ovs (Porel 32 n.o) **lost to** PBKS 177/6 in 19.2 ovs (Curran 63).

Since 2021, Chennai has hit the most number of maximums in the Indian Premier League

CHENNAI SIXER KINGS: STORY OF EVOLUTION

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

AT the post-match press conference following Chennai's six-wicket win on Friday, Eric Simons kept coming back to one word when describing their batting methodology. 'Freedom.' This freedom has helped them create a sort of environment where players are unshackled from the fear of failure.

This sort of atmosphere has allowed players to not only embrace the best version of themselves. It has also helped them evolve as batters. Ajinkya Rahane reinventing himself as a boundary-hitter in the sport's shortest format is, for instance, the best illustration of the 'freedom' Simons spoke about.

In the four Indian Premier League (IPL) editions from 2019 to 2022, Rahane had hit 15 sixes across 32 matches. In 15 matches for Chennai from the beginning of last year, he's already on 18. The South African coach explained what the franchise has done. "Jinks (Rahane) will be aggressive but he will be different to (Shivam) Dube," Simons said. "You go and play your own game with freedom and expression but do it your way. That's important."

What Simons was talking about was the two batters approach their game. Dube likes to muscle the ball off the spinners while Rahane handles pace better. Both of them access different areas of the ground while taking on different bowling types.

He elaborated. "I always say you can't pick six Chris Gayle's in your line-up; you have to have that balance. It's very important that Rahane doesn't try and be like or Gayle or that Gayle doesn't try and be like rahane. It's really about finding your way to do it. Some guys want to play really classic cricket shots and they can still end up making a quick 80 or a 90 or a 100... unlocking who they are but the attitude towards aggressiveness to balls that they can score off with their style."

This sort of effect has rubbed off on the entire team. From the start of the 2021 IPL season, Chennai are the leading six-hitters with 360 (21 ahead of Rajasthan). In terms of fours, they are only fourth best but the most maximum T20 teams are usually the ones who, on average, end up out-hitting the opposition in terms of 6s on a match-by-match basis. Then, it's not a surprise to note that they have won two of the last editions (they topped the maximums for 2021 and finished second in this particular table in 2023).

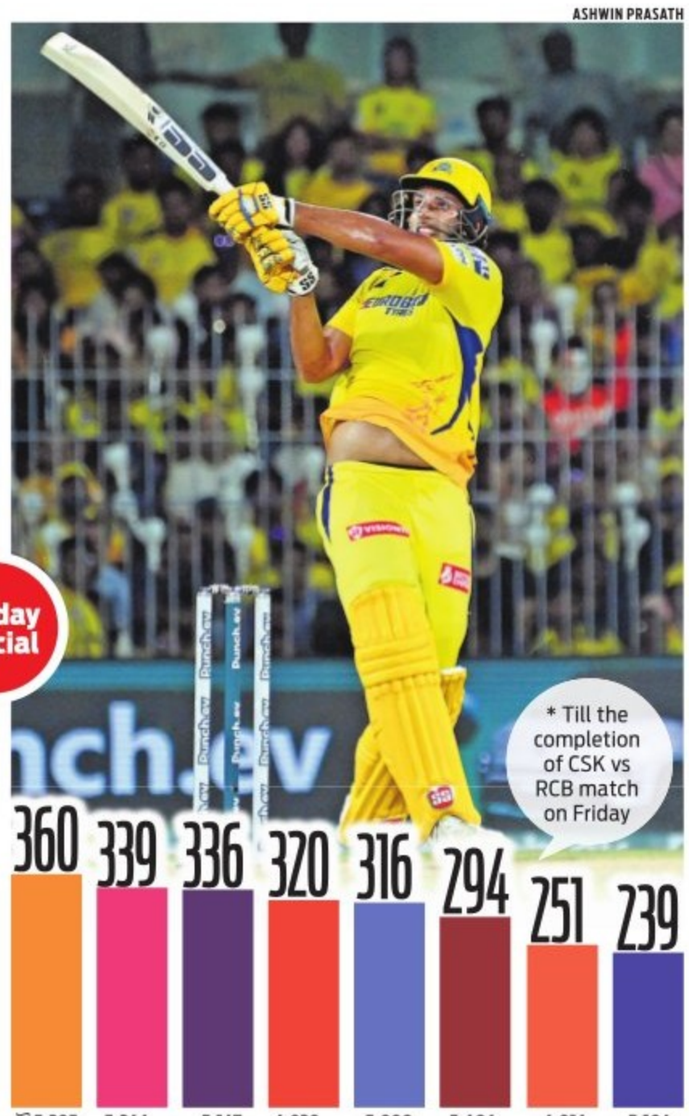
There are power-coaches for hire whose expertise is talking to players through their swing, the arc, ensuring their body shape is perfectly aligned at the point of impact. Julian Wood, one of the most celebrated power-hitting coaches in the modern game, spoke about it to this daily during an interview in 2021. "Ball exit speed, launch angle, bat speed, generating power through the hips," he had said. "I use weighted balls, weighted bats... what I do with those guys is... I connect their hips... I have bungee (rope) on their hips. Then I will start with weighted balls and weighted bats, Then change that with light balls and light bats. So you have got power which is the heavy staff and speed which is your light base. He talks about his hip a lot so we make his hips very powerful."

While Chennai use all of those terminologies, they divorce performances from results. "The most important thing is freedom; freedom to express yourself and the freedom to fail," Simons said. "The important thing in a competition like this is to coach people to be themselves. That's the way guys like to play, free them up be it with the bat or the ball. Even some of the hitting we have among the bowlers... it gives us a lot of depth. It allows us to play with freedom and be intimidating to the opposition."

They certainly were against Bengaluru on the opening night when they hit 9 sixes and 10 fours, at the rate of at least one boundary every over. In other words, they hit a six every 12.4 balls. While a sample size of one game is very small, they are the leading six-hitters by this metric — generally considered to be the gold standard — since the beginning of 2021 (14.98).

If they continue in a similar vein to recent seasons, it's hard to not see them progress into the knockout stages once again.

ASHWIN PRASATH



Have learnt to make optimum use of powerplay: Sai Sudharsan

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

INDIA batter Sai Sudharsan will be the cynosure of all eyes when Gujarat Titans take on Mumbai Indians at Ahmedabad in the IPL on Sunday.

Ever since he gave a good account of himself in the last IPL final by making 96, expectations are high on this budding youngster. Gujarat, who were the runners-up in the last edition, are gearing up for the new season under their new captain Shubman Gill. Gill will be leading this edition as the change was inevitable due to Hardik Pandya moving to Mumbai Indians.

Nevertheless, Gujarat are a strong fighting unit and are still one the teams that can challenge some of the strong sides like Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad. "We have prepared well in the camp and are keen to do well against Mumbai. We have trained as a unit keeping in mind the format and all of us got an opportunity to meet and gel as a unit," Sai Sudharsan told this daily.

Apart from the pre-season IPL training, Sudharsan had a good training stint with the Tamil Nadu team during the Ranji Trophy semifinals. "Sad we could not make it to the final in Ranji. Our team (Tamil Nadu) worked hard and performed well up to the semifinals stage. During the time with the TN Ranji team I worked on my fitness, which is very important and I am in good shape and ready to take the grind (travel and so on) of the IPL," informed the genial batter.

Apart from Gill, with the likes of Kane Williamson, David Miller, Abhinav Manohar, Shahrukh Khan, Vijay Shankar and Rahul Tewatia, Gujarat have a strong batting line up that could be the envy of a couple of sides. "We have some very good quality batters in our squad. There is a lot of experience and youth, plus players who can excel in this format for our team. I interact with all the seniors in the team and learn from them how to adapt to a particular situation. We also at times discuss the bowlers that we are going to face (in a particular game) and what to expect from them (the angles, speeds and so on)," revealed Sudharsan. Head coach Ashish Nehra and the entire support staff have played a big role in grooming the side to take on the rigours of the IPL. "We have an excellent bunch of coaches. I interact with all of them to get feedback on how to improve my overall game and stay relevant to the format. In fact I was keen and learnt from my coaches how to pace my innings and make optimum use of the powerplay," he revealed.

Gujarat have apart from Sudharsan, Vijay Shankar, Sai Kishore, Shahrukh Khan and Sandeep Warrier, all from Tamil Nadu in the team. "It is fun to have so many of your state mates in the Gujarat squad. We all share a good bond and one of the biggest plus points is that when you have so many people from your hometown, chances of falling homesick are nil," he insisted.

Five-time IPL champion Mumbai are a tough proposition on any given day. Now, with Hardik at helm they will go all out on Gujarat. "Our approach is simple. We take it one match a time, plus we consider each and every team in the league as strong. So against Mumbai it will not be any different, we will go and express ourselves and try to start the season on a winning note," signed off Sai Sudharsan.

Double delight

Rajasthan Royals face Lucknow Super Giants in the afternoon followed by a heavyweight clash between Gujarat Titans and Mumbai Indians. A look...

RAHUL ON RADAR

Returning from an injury layoff, KL Rahul is expected to bat in the middle-order in this IPL. How he keeps wickets and bats as a finisher and what kind of impact it has on the LSG team combination would be interesting to see.

HARDIK IN AHMEDABAD

After leading GT to two finals, Hardik Pandya will be back in Ahmedabad as MI captain. Will there be any tension? How will the crowd react? What will Rohit Sharma playing as a batter look like? A lot to look forward to as the all-rounder is set to make a comeback for the first time since the ODI World Cup.

SKIPPER SHUBMAN

Captaining in the IPL for the first time, all eyes will be on Shubman Gill and how he fares when he walks out for the toss. GT's fortunes will predominantly rely on how he fares not just as a captain, but also as a batter. In the larger scheme of things, his captaincy will be looked as a potential successor for the national team as well.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Rajasthan Royals vs Lucknow Super Giants, Jaipur, 3.30 PM ● Gujarat Titans vs Mumbai Indians, 7.30 PM

Live on Star Sports and Jio Cinema

EXPRESS READ

Haryana women clinch national hockey title

PUNE: Haryana thwarted Maharashtra's hopes of winning at home with a 3-0 victory through shoot-out to lift the 14th Hockey India senior women national championship title here on Saturday. Both the teams were tied 1-1 at the end of regulation time. This was Haryana's third national title. For Maharashtra, it was the second successive year that they had to settle with the silver medal.

Pak all-rounder Imad reverses retirement

LAHORE: After a meeting with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials, Imad Wasim came out of retirement to make himself available for the upcoming T20 World Cup. "I am happy to announce that pursuant to meeting PCB officials, I have reconsidered my retirement and am delighted to declare my availability for Pakistan cricket in T20I format leading up to ICC T20I World Cup 2024," said Wasim in his X account.

End of nefarious chapter: CBF head

AGENCIES @ Sao Paulo

BRAZIL'S soccer federation president Ednaldo Rodrigues said that the rape convictions of former footballers Dani Alves and Robinho end 'one of the most nefarious chapters' in the country's sports history. Rodrigues said in a statement that the executives at governing body CBF and its coaching staff feel sorry for 'the victims of the brutal crimes committed by the former footballers.

Robinho was jailed Thursday after a high court authorized his nine-year jail sentence from a trial in Italy to be served in Brazil. This week, Alves got the opportunity to leave prison on bail while awaiting the appeal of his conviction for rape.

"The yellow shirt that Brazilian athletes wear on the pitch is much more than a jersey. Just like soccer to Brazil is more than a sport. Those who wear it need to defend the feelings and values of a whole country they represent," Rodrigues said. "It is embarrassing that an athlete feels comfortable to commit such perversity as if all he achieved through sport will stop him from being punished."

Hours earlier, Brazil's new coach Dorival Junior said Robinho was "a fantastic person" in a press conference in London ahead of Saturday's friendly between his team and England.

Aryna Sabalenka in action on Friday | AFP

Sabalenka keeps emotion in check to overcome Badosa

AGENCIES @ Miami

WORLD No 2 Aryna Sabalenka returned to the court for the first time since the death of her former boyfriend earlier this week and kept her emotions in check as she beat Spain's Paula Badosa 6-4 6-3 on Friday. After six hours of rain delays, Sabalenka walked onto the court wearing an all-black outfit, a choice matched by her close friend Badosa.

Two-times Australian Open winner Sabalenka on Wednesday said she was "heartbroken" by the death of former boyfriend Konstantin Koltsov in a statement on Wednesday, where she revealed they had not been a couple at the time of his death. Koltsov died on Monday with Miami police saying he had jumped from the balcony of a room at an resort in an "apparent suicide." The former NHL ice hockey player and coach, was 42-years-old. Sabalenka made a slow start to the match but broke to go 4-3 up in the first set and never looked back.

Netherlands crush Scotland 4-0 in Euro warm-up clash

AGENCIES @ Amsterdam

NETHERLANDS scored three times in the closing stages to inflict a crushing 4-0 defeat on Scotland in Friday's friendly. In a match-up of two sides preparing for the start of Euro 2024 in June, it was encouraging outing for the Dutch and troubling one for the visitors.

Ronald Koeman's team took the lead when Tijjani Reijnders fired home from long-range just before half-time in Amsterdam's Johan Cruyff Arena. Scotland's Lawrence Shankland hit the bar in the second half and the visitors paid the price for that miss in a late collapse. Georginio Wijnaldum headed the second goal for the Netherlands before substitutes Wout Weghorst and Donyell Malen netted the final minutes.

Colombia beat Spain

LONDON: Crystal Palace defender Daniel Munoz struck in the second half after a superb run by Luis Diaz to capitalise on a disappointing display from La Roja ahead of this summer's European Championship in Germany. Spain, who won the Nations League last year to end an 11-year run without silverware after triumphing at Euro 2012, underwhelmed in their second loss under coach Luis de la Fuente. The first came in March 2023 in a defeat by Scotland in Euro 2024 qualifying which cast early doubt over the coach's credentials for the job, with concerns easing over the subsequent months.

Argentina down El Salvador

NEW YORK: The absence of captain Lionel Messi didn't slow Argentina on Friday as the world champions warmed up for their Copa America title defense with a 3-0 friendly victory over El Salvador in Philadelphia. Defender Cristian Romero opened the scoring, Enzo Fernández and Giovani Lo Celso followed.

Netherlands' Georginio Wijnaldum (R) celebrates after scoring | AFP

WHERE BRS LEADER KAVITHA FIGURES IN THE DELHI LIQUOR SCAM

MANDA RAVINDER REDDY @Hyderabad

KAVITHA Kalvakuntla, daughter of BRS boss and former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on March 15 at her Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad in a money laundering case connected to the Delhi liquor scam. Those who haven't closely followed the case might wonder how a politician from the South could possibly be linked to an alleged multi-crore racket in Delhi. The probe agency attributes it to the lure for easy money. It describes her as a key conspirator in the alleged scam, of which the subsequently arrested Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was the kingpin. How the ED proves the allegations in the trial court remains to be seen. Incidentally, Kejriwal is the first chief minister in the country to be arrested while in harness.

Kavitha, a Lok Sabha member from Nizamabad from 2014 to 2019, is now a member of the state legislative council. The ED alleges that she conspired with top leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), including its convenor Kejriwal and then Deputy CM and Minister of Excise, Manish Sisodia, and gave them ₹100 crore in bribe. In exchange, Kavitha and other members of the 'South Group' or 'South Lobby' got undue favours in the Delhi excise policy formulation and implementation and made ₹192.8 crore in profits, the ED claims.

ILLUSTRATION : SOURAV ROY

KEY DATES

November 2021 Delhi government introduces new liquor policy

July 31, 2022 Policy withdrawn after national uproar

August 17, 2022 FIR lodged by CBI against 15 accused, including the then Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and Kavitha's close associate Arun Ramachandra Pillai

October 17, 2022 CBI questions Manish Sisodia

December 11, 2022 CBI questions K Kavitha at her residence in Hyderabad for almost seven hours

February 26, 2023 CBI arrests Manish Sisodia

March 11, 2023 ED questions Kavitha in New Delhi for about 9 hours

March 20 and 21, 2023 ED again questions Kavitha in Delhi; gets custody of 10 mobile phones belonging to her

January 2024 ED summons Kavitha, but she skips it

February 21, 2024 CBI summons Kavitha. No show again

March 15, 2024 ED searches Kavitha's Banjara Hills residence in Hyderabad for hours, arrests her at 5.20 pm

The ED alleged that K Kavitha's nephew Meka Sri Saran was involved in the transfer of the proceeds of crime in the Delhi excise scam. Saran was present at her house when the ED raided it on March 15. He is not cooperating, the agency added

South Group

The story opens with the AAP government in Delhi constituting an expert committee in September 2020 to reform the liquor trade and open it up to private players. The trade was run by the government at that point in time. The expert committee submitted its report in October 2020. A Cabinet meeting held in February 2021 decided to constitute a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine all aspects of the then system, study the report of the expert committee and go through the comments received from all stakeholders and the general public. The GoM was headed by Sisodia, who also held the excise portfolio. Months later, the new excise policy 2021-22 came into force on November 17, 2021.

The probe agency alleges that during the formulation of the new excise policy, the then social media in-charge of AAP Vijay Nair approached Hyderabad-based businessman Arun Ramachandra Pillai, a close associate of Kavitha, with a business proposition for mutual benefit. The proposal was to exploit the opportunity of privatisation of the Delhi liquor market to make big money. Arun Pillai is believed to have shared it with Kavitha who took it forward. To increase their profit margins, Kavitha and her associates influenced the Delhi liquor policy, the ED alleges.

The then YSR Congress MP Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, whose family has been in the liquor business for more than 70 years, approached Kejriwal to explore how to enter the Delhi spirit market, the ED alleges. He met the chief minister on March 16, 2021 in Delhi. In a statement given by him to the ED, he said: "Kejriwal said that … earlier Kavitha, daughter of Chief Minister of Telangana K Chandrasekhar Rao, has already approached me to do liquor business in Delhi and offered to pay ₹100 crore to the AAP and she will call you in this connection or you call her, discuss about the future, since their team is already working in Delhi." Sreenivasulu Reddy has now joined the TDP.

According to the ED, Kavitha subsequently called Sreenivasulu Reddy on March 19, 2021. The next day, when they met at her residence in Hyderabad, Kavitha allegedly told him that Kejriwal had spoken to her and sought ₹100 crore in cash. She asked Sreenivasulu Reddy to contribute ₹50 crore to the pool if he wanted to be part of the deal, the ED alleges. The probe agency claims that Kavitha told him that her chartered accountant Buchi Babu would call on him and his son Raghav Magunta to take the proposal forward. When Buchi Babu met the father-son duo the next day, Raghav told him that he would be able to arrange ₹30 crore. Finally, ₹25 crore in cash was paid to Kavitha's close associates Abhishek Boinpally and Buchi Babu, the ED alleges.

Meanwhile, Aurobindo Pharma's director Sarath Chandra Reddy allegedly came into contact with Kavitha's team. According to the ED, Kavitha shared Kejriwal's demand of ₹100 crore with Sarath for a favourable excise policy and other benefits in the Delhi liquor business. He agreed to be part of the racket.

That was how the South Group — consisting of Kavitha, Sarath Chandra Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy and his son Raghav Magunta — was formed, according to the ED. The South Group is then said to have partnered with liquor businessman Sameer Mahendru's Indospirit and entered the Delhi liquor business. Probe agencies claim that Kavitha had a 33% share in Indospirit through Arun Pillai, her proxy. In the South Group, Abhishek Boinpally and Buchi Babu allegedly served as Kavitha's representatives. The ED claims that Kavitha, Arun Pillai, Vijay Nair and businessman Dinesh Arora met at Oberoi Maidens Hotel in New Delhi and discussed ways to recover the ₹100 crore bribe.

The ED alleges that the South Group transferred ₹100 crore to the AAP through the hawala route and some shell companies. Of that, the AAP used ₹45 crore for its Goa Assembly election campaign, the probe agency recently told a Delhi court. According to the ED, one of Kavitha's staff members revealed that he collected two bags full of cash from Dinesh Arora's office and delivered it to Vinod Chauhan, an associate of Sisodia.

FIR, probe, arrests

This newspaper broke the story on the scam in its June 22, 2022 edition. The headline read, "CBI may look into AAP govt's new liquor policy." With the situation spinning out of control, the Delhi government tried to limit the damage by scrapping the new policy on July 31, 2022. After Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena wrote to the Ministry of Home Affairs to investigate the policy formulation, the CBI registered a First Information Report (FIR) on August 17, 2022 and initially named Sisodia as an accused in the case.

Though Kavitha's name did not figure in the FIR, her close associate Arun Pillai's did. In September 2022, the ED arrested Sameer Mahendru, and in November that year the ED arrested Abhishek Boinpalli, Sarath Chandra Reddy and Vijay Nair.

Curiously, Aurobindo Pharma bought electoral bonds worth ₹5 crore on November 15, 2022, five days after its director Sarath Chandra Reddy was arrested. In all, it donated electoral bonds worth ₹34.5 crore to the BJP, ₹15 crore to the BRS and ₹2.5 crore to the Telugu Desam Party.

On December 11, 2022, Kavitha was questioned by the CBI at her residence in Hyderabad for almost seven hours. On March 7, 2023, the ED issued summons to Kavitha directing her to appear before it on March 9, 2023. She skipped it, but attended questioning on March 11. On March 21, she appeared before the ED. The agency recorded Kavitha's statements and seized her phones.

In September 2023, the ED summoned her again, but she skipped it citing a petition filed by her in the Supreme Court that was pending. In January 2024, the ED summoned her again but she ignored it. Finally, on March 15, the ED raided Kavitha's house in Hyderabad, conducted searches for hours and arrested her.

Approvers spill the beans

The agency claims Arun Pillai is a benami of Kavitha. In January 2023, it attached a land parcel worth ₹2.23 crore in Vattinagulapally, Hyderabad owned by Pillai and also 50 vehicles worth ₹10.23 crore owned by Indospirit.

From the South Group, Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, his son Raghav Magunta and Aurobindo Pharma's Sarath Chandra Reddy turned approvers in the case. Dinesh Arora, too, turned approver. It left Kavitha isolated. The ED relied on their information to go after Kavitha.

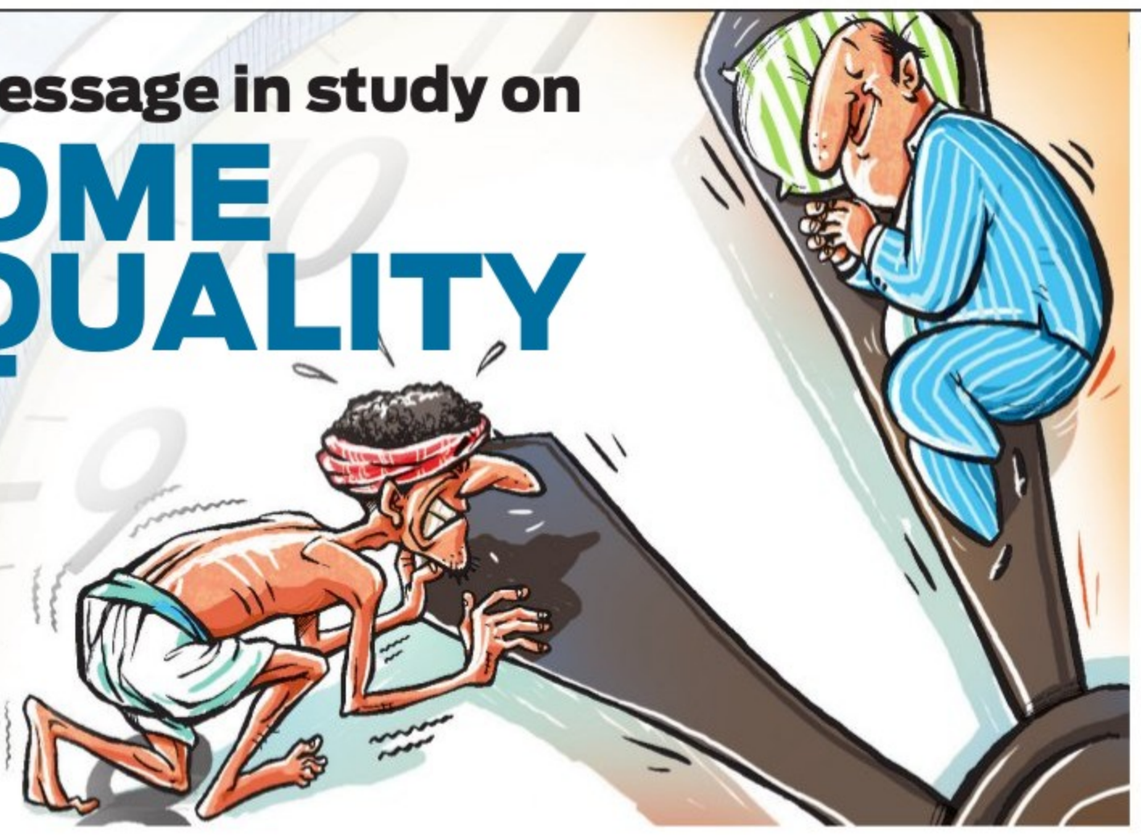
The agency claims to have collected records and other evidence from the Oberoi Maidens Hotel in New Delhi to prove that Kavitha attended a meeting called by Vijay Nair. The agency also retrieved WhatsApp chats between the accused and FaceTime call records. It also claims to have incriminating documents sourced from the mobile phones of the accused.

Destruction of digital evidence

According to the ED, Kavitha deleted evidence and formatted her mobile phones. On March 11, 2023, she produced one phone before it. On preliminary examination, despite her own disclosure that she uses FaceTime and WhatsApp from that device, no data was found in those apps. On March 21, 2023, she produced nine more phones. On preliminary examination, the ED found that she had formatted all of them. The ED then sent the 10 phones to the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) for data extraction and forensic examination. As per the report of NFSU, at least four devices were formatted after the ED issued summons to her on March 11, 2023.

The ED in its remand report accused Kavitha of actively destroying the digital evidence to conceal her role and involvement in the scam.

Loaded message in study on INCOME INEQUALITY



2%
Super tax suggested by the study on the net wealth of the 167 wealthiest families in India in 2022-23

0.5%
Of national income in revenues is the projected yield from super tax. It would create valuable fiscal space to facilitate fight inequality, the study claims

SUNITHA NATTI @ Hyderabad

INDIA has one of the world's highest economic inequality, according to a new study. The income share of the super rich, or the top 1%, is among the highest in the world, higher than even South Africa, Brazil and the US.

Moreover, the top 1% income and wealth shares were at their highest historical levels at 22.6% and 40.1% respectively in 2023, according to Paris-based World Inequality Lab's latest working paper titled, "Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922-2023: The Rise of the Billionaire Raj."

Co-authored by Nitin Kumar Bharti, Lucas Chancel, celebrated economist Thomas Piketty and Anmol Somanchi, the arresting data pointers were arrived at after combining national income accounts, wealth aggregates, tax tabulations, rich lists, and surveys on income, consumption and wealth. The authors present a long-run homogeneous income and wealth inequality series going back till 1922 for incomes and 1961 for wealth.

Broadly, the estimates suggest that inequality levels declined post-independence till the early 1980s, after which both top income and wealth shares shot up since the early 2000s. It also found tentative evidence that wealth-to-income ratios in recent years could be as low as 30%-40% at the lower end of the wealth distribution compared to over 4,600% at the very top of the distribution.

Income inequality measures the distribution of income throughout the population. If a greater share of aggregate income goes to the rich than say middle and low income households, income inequality increases and vice versa. On the other hand, wealth inequality measures the distribution of individuals' net worth. If income is a flow of money such as wages, wealth includes a stock of valuables like cash, stocks and bonds, property and other assets like vehicles and machinery. In most countries, the wealth gap between upper and lower income households is sharper than the income divide.

As Piketty's seminal book Capital in the 21st Century outlines, the return on capital (wealth) is higher than the rate of economic growth in general, and wealth dominates wages as the determinant of how prosperity is shared. Needless to say, wealth inequality is more severe than income inequality everywhere. As for India, a fraction of the population, or just 10,000 individuals own an average of ₹22.6 billion in wealth, which is 16,763 times the average Indian income, according to the paper's findings.

"As per our benchmark estimates, the Billionaire Raj headed by India's modern bourgeoisie is now more unequal than the British Raj headed by the colonialist forces. One reason to be concerned with such high levels of inequality is that extreme concentration of incomes and wealth is likely to facilitate disproportionate influence on society and government. This is even more so in contexts with weak democratic institutions," the authors noted.

Why it matters

India being the world's most populous, the distribution of economic growth has significant consequences on global inequality dynamics and hence the Indian income and wealth inequality measurement is crucial. Until the early 2000s, inequality did not receive much attention in India, but the 1991 liberalisation reforms and the opening of the economy to global markets made it a salient issue.

In 2022-23, 22.6% of national income went to just the top 1%, the highest level recorded in the series since 1922, higher than even during the inter-war colonial period. The top 1% wealth share stood at 40.1% in 2022-23, also at its highest level since 1961 when WIL's wealth series began. In other words, the 'Billionaire Raj' headed by India's modern bourgeoisie is now more unequal than the British Raj headed by the colonialist forces, according to the authors.

In fact, the State of Inequality in India Report by Kapoor and Duggal in 2022, commissioned by none other than the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, found that the top 1% earn just over 6%-7% of the total incomes. But Piketty's team dismisses these findings as it only uses data on labour and self-employment incomes, restricted to those employed at the time of survey (non-zero incomes), and does not make use of tax tabulations, thereby missing a large part of the right-tail of the distribution. Nonetheless, it draws attention to the fact that the 'benefits of growth have been concentrated and has marginalized the poor further.'

Other studies using CMEI's Consumer Pyramids Household Survey also point to a slowdown in inequality, particularly, during the Covid years. Again Piketty and team set aside the findings as incomplete as CMIE surveys aren't representative of the population as they miss poorer and less-educated households in the sample.

That said, not everyone agrees with Piketty and his team's latest findings. In fact, over the past one decade, several authors have raised objections to Piketty's inequality numbers not just in India, but also in countries like the US. They dismiss his findings, blaming opaque methodological choices and cherry-picking of sources like Forbes and Hurun rich lists to overstate inequality than the ground reality. Instead, they favour other reliable measures of inequality like the Gini coefficient – a standard measure of inequality that ranges from 0, indicating perfect equality, to 1, indicating perfect inequality. According to SBI Research, India's Gini coefficient fell from 0.472 in FY15 to 0.402 in FY23, indicating a significant reduction in inequality.

The rise of Indian billionaires — Top 1% and beyond

From 13% in 1922, the top 1% share increased significantly to over 20% during the inter-war period, but saw a dramatic fall to 13% by the time of India's independence. After briefly rising during the 1950s, the top 1% shares consistently fell over the next two decades and reached 6.1% by 1982, perhaps as a consequence of the broadly socialist policy agenda pursued till the 1980s, including nationalisation of sectors like railways, airways, banking, oil, strong regulation of markets and high tax progressivity with the top marginal tax rate anchored as high as 97.5% in 1973.

However, following liberalisation in 1991, the decline in top 1% shares halted and started increasing over the next 30 years to reach an all-time high of 22.6% in 2022.

Within the top 1%, the top 0.1%, 0.01% and 0.001% witnessed prosperity, but in various magnitudes. For instance, in 2022, just the top 0.1% earned nearly 10% of the national income. The corresponding figures were 4.3% and 2.1% for the top 0.01% and top 0.001%, respectively. Lastly, in the four decades between 1982 and 2022, the top 10% saw their income share almost doubling.

In contrast, the middle class were less fortunate. By the turn of the 21st century, the share of national income going to the middle 40% remained firmly higher than the top 10%. For instance, of the total national income, the middle 40% and top 10% shares stood at 42.8% and 36.7% respectively in 1951, and 44.1% and 33.5% respectively in 1990. However, since the early 2000s, the top 10% overtook the middle 40% and by 2022, they stood at 27.3% and 57.7%, respectively.

Similarly, top 10% shares marginally fall between 2018-2020 and rise after. As we discuss later, this was likely the result of the economic slowdown in India (that began in 2017 and culminated in the Covid-19 crisis in 2020) and the pro-cyclical nature of inequality. There are likely numerous factors related to India's growth and development process that are keeping the bottom 50% and middle 40% shares depressed.

Inequality dynamics, 2014-2022

As for inequality, the Modi years of 2014-2023 can be divided into three phases: 2014-2017, 2018-2020, and 2021 onwards. In the first phase, the economy grew moderately fast and both income and wealth inequality continued to rise. In the second phase, growth slowed down considerably and plummeted in 2020, while the top 10% income and wealth shares declined by 1-2% – confirming the pro-cyclical nature of inequality, i.e. the rich tend to benefit disproportionately from boom periods and are disproportionately hurt during slumps.

Finally in the last phase, after the lockdowns were lifted and the economic effects of Covid-19 dissipated, the top shares reverted to their upward trend in 2021 and 2022, while bottom shares declined back to their 2014 level.

So the paper concluded that the real beneficiaries in recent years appear to be the super-rich, the top 1% and beyond. In contrast, the middle 40% seem to have grown slower than the bottom 50%, exacerbating the phenomenon of India's "missing middle class". The bottom 50%, in return, grew at the same rate as that of the average of the population, preventing an increase in their share of total income and wealth.

Thus, the paper suggested a 2% super tax on the rich. For instance, the proposed tax on the total net wealth of 162 wealthiest Indian families would yield revenue to the tune of 0.5% of national income or more than twice the Central government's budget expenditure on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.